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OPPOSING CLAIMS

Preah Vihear at the heart of Thai-Cambodia tensions

How an ancient temple built by Khmer kings became a point of contention

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Ramanujan's old formulae for pi echo in modern cosmology

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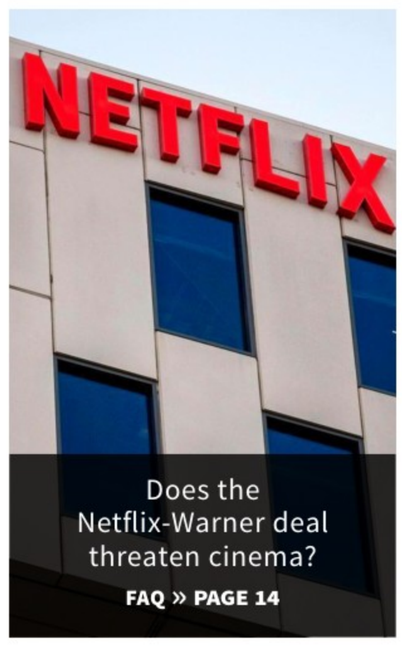

Does the Netflix-Warner deal threaten cinema?

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India takes on upbeat South Africa in the third T20I

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Aland voter fraud case exposed NVSP loopholes; EC introduces reforms

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The modus operandi in the attempt to delete names of genuine voters from the rolls without their knowledge in the Aland voter fraud case has used the loopholes in ECI's National Voters' Service Portal (NVSP).

The chargesheet in the case filed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT), led by Additional Director General of Police B.K. Singh, in Bengaluru on Friday, naming former BJP MLA Subhash Guttedar as the prime accused in the case, lists six loopholes on NVSP misused by the accused, sources said.

Any mobile number and the OTP sent to that number could be used to create an account on NVSP, and for subsequent logins, only password was needed, no OTP was needed to be sent again.

Misusing this, Akram Pasha, who ran a call-centre-like firm in Kalaburagi, was allegedly hired by the then incumbent MLA Subhash Guttedar to target and delete names of voters who were likely to vote for his rival. He bought mobile numbers and OTPs sent to these numbers from West Bengal-based Bapi Adya, who ran a website called 'otp bazar'. This had a tie-up with a USA-based website called 'sms activate'. The website would randomly provide a mobile number, using which transactions could be made and would provide the OTP sent to that number for a price.

It is suspected that this website may have helped others with digital impersonation and identity theft, and in cyber crimes, earlier. The servers used to host the otp bazar website have been seized and the website will be taken down, sources said.

SIT has pointed to other loopholes in NVSP misused by the accused. There was neither a fixed session time on NSVP. Any number of applications could be made from a single account, any mobile number could be used for the applicant, and no alert was sent to the voter whose name sought to be deleted.

Safeguards introduced

ECI introduced an e-verification system and double authentication on NVSP in September 2025 to prevent such misuse, and limited the number of applications that can be made from an account to six, sources said. This was following the report in *The Hindu* and a press conference by Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

However, ECI has not yet shared the key data sought by investigators in Karnataka and delinked the reform measures on NVSP to Rahul Gandhi's press conference and said that it had been planned earlier itself.

With these new safety measures in place as well, whether these measures have plugged all six loopholes is not clear, sources in the SIT said.

UDF sweeps Kerala local body elections

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The ruling CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) suffered a huge setback in the 2025 local body elections in Kerala with the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) making a strong comeback across Corporations, municipalities and panchayats in the State.

But the big story of the day was the BJP-led NDA emerging as the single-largest front in the high-profile Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, winning 50 of the 101 wards in the civic body, ruled by the LDF for 45 years. The two-phased elections were held in Kerala on December 9 and 11.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

Scenes of celebration following the UDF's victory in the Kochi Corporation elections.

Fans run riot in stadium as VIPs block Messi view

Bengal CM constitutes probe panel after the mayhem in Kolkata; main organiser arrested; fans were angry that despite paying steep ticket prices, they were unable to catch a glimpse of the star

Fan fury: Angry fans vandalise Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on Saturday, alleging poor management during Argentine footballer Lionel Messi's three-day India tour. ANI, DEBASISH BHADURI

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Violence erupted at Salt Lake Stadium on Saturday after football legend Lionel Messi made a 20-minute public appearance, disappointing fans who had paid large sums and travelled long distances but failed to catch a glimpse of the Argentine star due to VIPs obstructing their view.

Angry fans vandalised the stadium, breaking chairs and fences, throwing bottles and starting fires. No injuries were reported. The main organiser was arrested.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee apologised to Mr. Messi and his fans, and set up a panel to enquire into the incident.

Later in the day, when West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose attempted to visit the stadium to inspect the site of the violence before sending a report to the Centre, he was not allowed inside. The stadium's gates were closed and its lights were switched off.

VIP obstruction

Thousands of spectators, from Kolkata as well as from other parts of the country, had come to see Mr. Messi on his second visit to the football-mad city, after 14 years. Mr. Messi's convoy entered the stadium at exactly 11.30 a.m. He was accompanied by footballers Luis Suarez and Rodrigo De Paul.

As soon as he entered, however, a crowd of 70 to 80 people, including the organisers, the State's Sports Minister Aroop Biswas, and representatives of football clubs, surrounded him, trying to take selfies and autographs from Mr. Messi. Those in the galleries were unable to even get a glimpse of the stars and started chanting, "We want Messi." The footballers were shepherded out of the stadium at about 11:52 a.m., even before Ms. Banerjee and Bollywood actor Shahrukh Khan arrived for the planned event.

Within minutes, hundreds of people broke the fence around the field and swarmed onto it. Some overturned temporary structures on the field, and others set them on fire.

A large deployment of police resorted to baton charges to control the crowd. After almost an hour, fans and media personnel were removed from the stadium.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

NEARBY

Caste survey report expected in Januay 2026

BELAGAVI
The Karnataka government is hoping to receive the much-awaited report of the Social and Educational Survey-2025 conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes by January 2026. » PAGE 7

Parkng chaos worsens around metro stations

BENGALURU
Parking woes around Namma Metro stations are intensifying, with limited or non-existent parking at many stations forcing commuters to leave their vehicles on surrounding roads, often in residential neighbourhoods. » PAGE 2

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Kidwai to set up 50-bed hospice for terminally ill cancer patients

Home-based palliative care plan soon

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

In a move aimed at improving end-of-life care for terminally ill cancer patients, the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology is preparing to establish a dedicated 50-bed pain relief and palliative care centre (hospice).

It seeks to ensure that patients in the advanced stages of cancer are able to spend their final days with dignity.

The proposed hospice, to function under the Department of Palliative Medicine at this recognised Centre of Excellence in Oncology, will be built at an estimated cost of ₹2 crore. A three-storey building will be constructed on a 6,000 to 8,000 sq. ft. site within the institute's campus, with a private organisation funding and executing the project under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative. The construction is expected to begin within a month, with the facility likely to be ready by the end of 2026.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kidwai Institute has also drawn up a phased plan to expand home-based palliative care for terminally ill cancer patients who are unable to travel to the hospital due to advanced illness or immobility.

Under Phase I, services will be extended to patients living within a 10-km radius of the institute. A dedicated team comprising a doctor, nursing staff, a social worker and a volunteer will visit patients at home to provide symptom management, wound care, counselling and caregiver guidance, said M.K. Yaduraj, Head of the Department of Palliative Medicine at the institute.

"Patients will be identified during outpatient visits and followed up through a structured telemedicine programme, including scheduled video consultations. Home visits will be undertaken when patients show worsening symptoms or require in-person clinical assessment," Dr. Yaduraj said.

The hospice will focus on reducing pain, suffering, anxiety and emotional distress experienced by patients in the terminal stages of cancer, while also offering psychological and emotional support to their families.

"End-of-life care is as important as treatment at the beginning of life, and patients deserve compassion and respect in their final phase," said Naveen T., Institute Director (additional charge).

The three-storey structure will have patient care wards on the ground and first floors, while the upper floor will provide space for attendants, family members and support staff. Medical manpower, medicines and day-to-day operations will be managed by Kidwai, while the building, equipment and infrastructure will be provided through CSR support by Garuda Foundation.

Hospice care is a specialised form of medical support for patients who no longer have curative treatment options. Unlike conventional treatment, hospice care focuses on managing symptoms rather than the disease itself.

M.K. Yaduraj, Head of the Department of Palliative Medicine at the institute, said pain is controlled using appropriate medications such as morphine and oxygen is provided for breathlessness.

Kidwai sees around 3,000 outpatients and admits around 750 inpatients daily. Every year, about 24,000 new cancer patients are treated, with over three lakh patients coming for follow-up care.

Second airport for Bengaluru: Tenders invited for feasibility study, says Minister M.B. Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (KSIIDC) has invited tenders to select an expert consultancy firm to prepare a location suitability and comprehensive technical and financial feasibility report for the proposed second international airport for the State capital.

The last date for submission of applications is January 12, 2026, Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil said in a press release on Saturday.

Giving details, he said the State government has identified sites at Choodahalli and Somanahalli on Kanakapura Road, along with another location near Nelamangala, for the proposed airport.

A high-level team from the Airports Authority of India has inspected these locations and submitted a preliminary report.

The consultancy firm selected through the tender process will be required to submit a detailed technical and financial feasibility report to the government within five months, he added.

The government has identified sites at Choodahalli and Somanahalli, along with another location near Nelamangala, for the proposed airport. PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE

Who is eligible?

Firms that have executed projects worth at least ₹250 crore annually over the past five years, and have handled or prepared consultancy reports for a minimum of five projects in the relevant sector, will be eligible to participate in the tender, Mr. Patil said.

The selected consultancy firm will study parameters such as rainfall patterns, topography, availability of power, water supply, sewerage and waste management infrastructure, surrounding population, regional development, and noise pollution likely to arise from airport operations at all three identified locations.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

A symbolic reception: A sculpture of Bison Horn Maria dancers welcomes visitors at the entrance to Jagdalpur.

Bound by tradition: Two men from the tribe cross the fields on their way to perform the Bison Horn Maria dance at a village festival in Judiya Para.

Intricate work: A member of the tribe shows off his elaborate horn-shaped headgear with white shells and feathers, on his way to a performance.

Heritage in motion: In a vibrant celebration of the community's cultural traditions, Bison Horn Maria dancers, adorned in colourful costumes and holding quirky props, perform at the festival in Judiya Para.

The enduring tribal beats of Bastar

The Bison Horn Maria dance of the Dandami Madias in Chhattisgarh carries echoes of ancient Gondwana; despite modern influences, the art form endures, as an affirmation of the identity and living cultural soul of the tribal community

K.R. Deepak
deepak.kr@thehindu.co.in

As you enter Jagdalpur, the district headquarters of Bastar, a towering sculpture of Bison Horn Maria dancers comes into view, welcoming visitors. It stands as a striking symbol of the region's cultural pride and the enduring legacy of the Dandami Madia community.

The Dandami Madia (also spelt as Maria) people have long shaped the cultural landscape of southern Chhattisgarh. Their settlements across Darbha, Tokapal, Lohandiguda and Dantewada continue to maintain a deep relationship with the forest, where livelihood and beliefs remain closely intertwined.

Identifying themselves as part of the larger Gond tradition, the community carries echoes of the ancient Gondwana region that once stretched across central India. Among their most recognisable cultural expressions is the Bison Horn Maria dance.

Performed by both men and women, the dance turns the village clearing into a vibrant spectacle of colour and sound. Men wear the iconic horn-shaped headgear made from bamboo, adorned with bison horns, feathers, and bright cloth strips that sway with each movement. Layers of bead necklaces cover their torsos, while brass bells tied to their ankles create a rhythmic jingle as they dance.

Women wear bright, handwoven saris, heavy silver and brass ornaments, and headgear. Coins in the denominations of ₹1 to ₹10 are worked into their jewellery, and many also don a brass crown, adding to the ceremonial visual appeal. Their movements flow in graceful arcs, shoulders swaying to the beat of drums and bamboo flutes.

Celebrating hunting traditions, village rituals and the community's bond with nature, the dance reaches its grandest expression during the Madia festival, when families from distant hamlets gather on nights filled with drumming and chants invoking deities such as Budhadev and Danteshwari Mai.

Despite modern influences, the Bison Horn Maria dance endures. It is an affirmation of identity, ancestral connection and the living cultural soul of the Dandami Madias.

Getting into character: A dancer sits by a drum in front of his home, ready to wear his headgear and other accessories, in preparation for a performance at the village festival.

Parking chaos worsens around metro stations

Across the 96-km network, BMRCL has designated parking at 66 of the 83 stations, accommodating about 12,000 two-wheelers and 2,300 cars

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Parking woes around Namma Metro stations are intensifying, with limited or non-existent designated parking at many stations forcing commuters to leave their vehicles on surrounding roads, often in what were quiet residential neighbourhoods.

As Bengaluru's Metro network expands and ridership grew to an average of 10 lakh every day, the struggle for space has become a daily ordeal for both residents and commuters.

Unauthorised two-wheeler parking near a metro station in Bengaluru; two-wheelers being parked in between the bollards, blocking the movement of pedestrians. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Only 66 stations

Across the 96-km network, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) has designated parking at only 66 of the 83 stations, accommodating about 12,000 two-wheelers and 2,300 cars.

A visit by *The Hindu* reporters to several high footfall stations across the Purple, Green, and Yellow Lines found that parking facilities fall drastically short of demand. Commuters are found routinely parking on nearby bylanes, in front of houses, parks, and even across private gates, creating friction with residents and adding to congestion.

Space constraints, particularly in central neighbourhoods, make it difficult to create large parking lots, says a BMRCL official

On R.V. Road, the major interchange between the Green Line and the newly inaugurated Yellow Line, the shortage is acute. The station sits amid a residential pocket, and commuters park all along the lanes.

Somashekhar N.R., a resident of Jayanagar 5th Block, said, "I am a senior citizen. Every morning and evening, I go for a walk in the Rose Garden near R.V. Road Metro station. But right in front of the park gate, two-wheelers and cars are parked. It is difficult to even enter."

Suma R. from Jayanagar said that despite putting up 'No Parking' signs outside her house, people continue to leave their vehicles across her gate. "Now, I have placed big stones so that nobody can park. Parking issue has worsened after the Yellow Line opened," she said.

At the Attiguppe Metro Station on the Purple Line, the approach road from RPC Layout is perpetually packed with two-wheelers. Commuters, many of them office-goers, park from early morning until late night along the road and adjoining lanes. The presence of a private school next to the station adds to the chaos during morning and afternoon hours, as the vehicles of parents jostle with commuters for space.

Full parking

At the Jalahalli Metro Station on the Green Line, even the dedicated parking available fails to meet demand. By 9.30 a.m., parking lots at Jalahalli, Peenya Industry, and Peenya stations are full.

Sandeep Kumar, a regular commuter on the Green Line, said he spends several minutes each day searching for a spot. "Once Jalahalli's lot is full, cars spill over onto the service road of Tumakuru Road, which worsens congestion," he said.

The Purple Line's Challaghatta and Kengeri Metro stations have become major entry points for people travelling to Bengaluru from Ramanagara, Bidadi, Channapatna and other towns along the Bengaluru-Mysuru access-controlled highway.

Challaghatta, the first station for commuters entering the city from Mysuru Road, has parking space only for a small number of vehicles. Hundreds end up parking in residential pockets. "I park at the Kengeri Bus Terminal Metro station, and sometimes in residential areas," said Santhosh N. from Bidadi, who travels daily to Bengaluru for work.

Ironically, the Kengeri Metro Station itself has no dedicated parking, leaving commuters dependent on the Kengeri Bus Terminal station nearby, a facility that is stretched far beyond its designed capacity.

At Indiranagar, a busy station on the Purple Line which was the stretch first opened in the network, the small parking facility fills up before 9 a.m. Commuters then park along 9th A Main Road and 10th A Main Road, both residential streets. Commuters from Jeevan Bima Nagar, Malleshpalya, HAL 2nd Stage, Domlur, and Koramangala often leave their vehicles used for last mile connectivity on residential lanes. Abhinav Sarma, a resident of Koramangala, who uses Indiranagar station to commute to Brookefield, said lack of space forces him to park in the parallel lane.

High land costs

The BMRCL officials cited high land acquisition costs as a major reason for this issue. "Space constraints, particularly in central neighbourhoods, make it difficult to create large parking lots," an official said.

He said newer corridors such as the Yellow Line have been designed with a greater focus on two-wheeler parking due to limited land availability. At the same time, the BMRCL is working on constructing multi-level parking structures at major stations like K.R. Pura and Majestic, he added.

Emergency response vehicles launched to assist govt. buses during breakdowns and accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

he Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) on Saturday launched 'Accident Emergency Response Vehicles' aimed at providing swift assistance during road accidents and vehicle breakdowns involving State-run buses. Initially, two vehicles will be deployed at central locations in Bengaluru and Mysuru.

The KSRTC says that 10 additional units will be inducted by the end of January 2026 and will subsequently be deployed across the remaining districts in a phased rollout to ensure Statewide coverage. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Minister for Transport Ramalinga Reddy flagged off a fleet of Accident Emergency Response Vehicles, which have the capacity to respond swiftly to bus accidents and breakdowns on major transport corridors.

According to Mr. Reddy, the specially equipped vehicles will function as mobile workshops, enabling technical teams to quickly reach stranded buses with necessary tools, spare parts, and support to restore operations. "Initially, two vehicles have been stationed, and these units will cover high-traffic regions, including Tumakuru, Kolar, Chickballapur, Mandya, and surrounding districts," he said. The Minister said the initiative was essential as buses operating from the Kempegowda Bus Stand and Mysuru Road Bus Stand serve a wide network of intra-State and inter-State routes.

> The deployment of vehicles will allow staff to reach such sites without delay, clear obstructions, and minimise service disruptions
>
> **RAMALINGA REDDY**
> Minister for Transport

"Frequent technical failures or accidents on busy stretches often lead to significant traffic congestion and inconvenience to commuters. The deployment of mobile workshop vehicles would allow staff to reach such sites without delay, clear obstructions, and minimise service disruptions," Mr. Reddy added. Apart from enabling on-site repairs, the new vehicles will also assist in emergency response. In the event of an accident, teams can provide immediate support to drivers and conductors and assist in shifting injured passengers to nearby hospitals, when necessary.

Each vehicle costs ₹7.22 lakh. The KSRTC announced that 10 additional units would be inducted by the end of January 2026 and subsequently deployed across the remaining districts in a phased rollout to ensure Statewide coverage.

"These vehicles are light commercial vehicle (LCV) pickup chosen for their fuel efficiency, power output, and suitability for transporting equipment safely. The turbocharged, intercooled diesel engine complies with BS-VI emission standards. The High Side Deck design enables secure carriage of spare parts and repair tools vital for field operations," a senior KSRTC official explained.

Students and animal welfare groups urge govt. to adopt Statewide ABC model for stray dog management

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid continuing public anxiety over dog bites and rabies, Student for Streeties, a student-led organisation, on Saturday argued that Karnataka already has a workable, scientific solution but is failing to implement it properly.

Members of Student for Streeties and Citizens for Animal Birth Control addressing a press meet in Bengaluru on Saturday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

At a press conference, representatives from student groups and animal welfare organisations said the State government should fully adopt and uniformly implement the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, instead of spending vast sums on dog shelters or resorting to illegal dog pick-ups. They stressed that indiscriminate catching and confinement of dogs not only violates the law, but also worsens public safety by disrupting stable stray dog populations, which are known to reduce aggression and prevent new, unvaccinated dogs from entering an area. They said they sought to meet with the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary to push for policy clarity and enforcement.

Harini Raghavan of Citizens for Animal Birth Control requested the State government to lead by example by committing to the ABC Rules, 2023. Referring to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's recent post on 'X' endorsing ABC norms, she said the government should back this position with an affidavit in court and announce a Statewide rollout of the programme. She pointed to Bengaluru's ABC model as proof that sustained sterilisation and vaccination can control dog populations and reduce rabies risk without cruelty.

Concerns were also raised over current practices. Pratham, a law student, said existing laws were being selectively ignored. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and the ABC Rules clearly prohibit the forced relocation of dogs to shelters, especially when most facilities are already overcrowded. Despite this, dogs continue to be picked up illegally, he said.

They argued that large-scale investments in shelters were neither effective nor necessary and claimed that proven ABC measures cost a fraction of what was being proposed for new facilities and deliver better long-term results for both public health and animal welfare.

They also demanded the immediate release of over 200 dogs allegedly being held unlawfully in ABC shelters, stating that such detention violates the ABC Rules.

Actor Pooja Gandhi, in a video message, also appealed to the government to follow the law and adopt humane, science-based methods for managing stray dog populations.

JAC and Transport Minister discuss long-pending demands

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of transport corporation employees held a meeting with Minister for Transport Ramalinga Reddy on Saturday to discuss long-pending demands, including the release of arrears and a comprehensive pay revision, following instructions from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The meeting comes in the backdrop of an earlier discussion held between the unions, Chief Minister and the Transport Minister on November 26, during which the union had reiterated its demands.

As directed by the Chief Minister, Mr. Reddy convened the latest round of talks to review the issues raised by employees of the State-run road transport corporations. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Reddy said, "The unions have been raising several demands over the last two years. Multiple meetings have already taken place, including at least three meetings with the Chief Minister. In the most-recent meeting, the Chief Minister instructed me to convene another round of talks, which has now been done." The Minister added that with the Assembly session currently under way, he would communicate on the discussions held with union leaders to the Chief Minister during the session, after which a decision might be taken.

Demands

The JAC has demanded the immediate release of arrears and implementation of a long-pending pay revision. According to the unions, unpaid dues across the four Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) have accumulated to ₹8,010 crore.

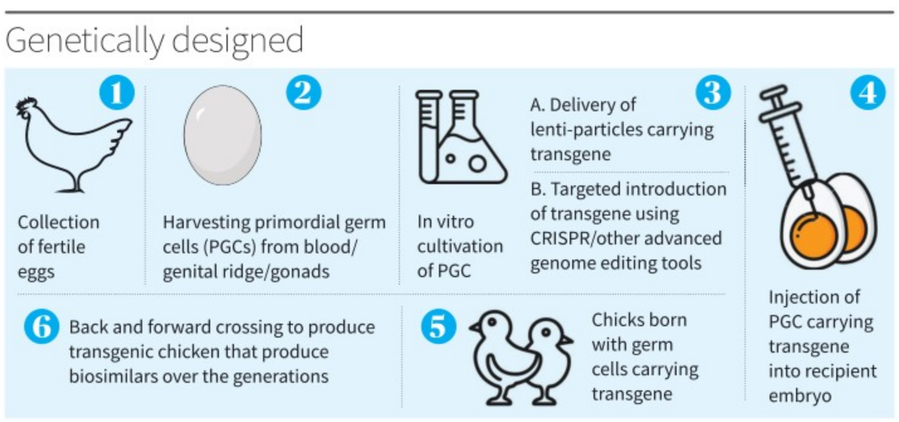
Scientists teach chickens to make human proteins inside their eggs

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

What if a chicken's egg could do more than feed people? What if it could help grow medicines used in stem cell research and advanced therapies?

Scientists in Bengaluru are doing just that by working on chickens genetically designed to produce medically "important human proteins" directly inside their eggs, a method that could make complex biomedical research materials easier to produce and more widely available.

Researchers at the National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (NIANP) under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Bengaluru, in collaboration with the ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), have produced transgenic chickens carrying a human gene known as Leukemia Inhibitory Factor (LIF). The aim is to make the chickens produce this protein naturally inside their eggs, opening up a new way of producing important biomedical molecules.


Genetically designed
1
Collection of fertile eggs
2
Harvesting primordial germ cells (PGCs) from blood/ genital ridge/gonads
In vitro cultivation of PGC
3
A. Delivery of lenti-particles carrying transgene
B. Targeted introduction of transgene using CRISPR/other advanced genome editing tools
4
Injection of PGC carrying transgene into recipient embryo
5
Chicks born with germ cells carrying transgene
6
Back and forward crossing to produce transgenic chicken that produce biosimilars over the generations

> Chickens are considered especially suitable for this kind of genetic work because they reproduce quickly and lay eggs almost daily
>
> **ARTABANDHU SAHOO**
> Director, ICAR-NIANP

Therapeutic proteins such as LIF are widely used in laboratories, especially for growing stem cells, including embryonic and induced pluripotent stem cells, which are crucial for research into diseases, regenerative medicine and drug development. At present, such proteins are usually produced using microbes grown in specialised bioreactors, a process that is expensive and requires complex infrastructure.

Scientists across the world have been exploring whether animals or plants can be used instead as "living factories" to make these proteins. While plants such as leaves or seeds can be engineered to produce useful molecules, extracting pure proteins from them is difficult because plant cells are structurally complex. Animal systems, particularly chicken, offer several practical advantages.

Artabandhu Sahoo, Director, ICAR-NIANP, explained that chickens are considered especially suitable for this kind of genetic work because they reproduce quickly and lay eggs almost daily. A single egg can contain milligram quantities of therapeutic proteins, and a layer hen can produce around 520 eggs during her productive lifetime. This means large quantities of protein can potentially be produced using basic poultry-rearing facilities, without the need for costly industrial equipment.

Eggs also offer other benefits. The protein environment inside an egg is relatively simple, making purification easier compared to plant sources. Studies have shown that proteins produced in eggs are stable for months at air-conditioned temperatures. Egg-derived therapeutic products have been found to be safe for human use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, he said.

The key scientific challenge in creating transgenic chickens was solved through the discovery of primordial germ cells (PGCs) more than a century ago. These are early cells that eventually give rise to sperm and eggs. Scientists learned that chickens can only be genetically modified by altering these cells. In practice, the PGCs are collected during a specific stage of embryo development, grown in laboratory culture, and genetically edited using modern genome-editing tools. The modified cells are then carefully tested and placed back into developing embryos, where they settle into the reproductive organs and pass the new gene to the next generation.

Using this approach, the Bengaluru-based research team has developed laboratory systems to culture chicken PGCs and successfully produced multiple male and female chickens carrying the human LIF gene. These birds have been tested to confirm the presence of the gene, and efforts are ongoing to express the protein in their eggs.

If successful at scale, this method could significantly reduce the cost of producing LIF and similar therapeutic proteins. Scientists say the same platform can also be adapted in the future to produce other important biomedical molecules at low cost.

Festival beats: Men and women, their anklets jingling, stomp and circle, as they swirl and sway to the rhythm of the drums.

In high spirits: After the dance performance, two Dandami Madia women, share a light moment.

Layers of custom: A woman dons the traditional attire adorned with bangles, arm cuffs, a waistband and necklaces made from rupee coins.

Ready for action: Women dancers gather ahead of the performance.

Step in time: Hands embracing each other, performers dance in a circle, moving in sync as drummers at the centre keep the beats alive during the festival in Judiya Para.

Former MLA saves woman on flight

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On a Goa to New Delhi flight, former MLA from Khanapur Anjali Nimbalkar, also a trained doctor, stepped in to help a young American woman who developed health complications.

As the flight took off, the traveller fainted. Through, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, Dr. Anjali revived her, said a release.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, DEC. 14	
RISE 06:33	SET 17:56
RISE 01:45	SET 13:46
MONDAY, DEC. 15	
RISE 06:33	SET 17:56
RISE 02:31	SET 14:22
TUESDAY, DEC. 16	
RISE 06:34	SET 17:56
RISE 03:19	SET 15:01

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	29	17
Bengaluru	29	15

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be very cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be very cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be very cool. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Shivakumar pitches for Apartment Bill; seeks support of residents in GBA elections

The Bill is being brought at a time when Bengaluru has grown significantly, with nearly 19% of its residents living in apartments, says Deputy Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government is planning to introduce the Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2025, to protect the interests of apartment owners and residents, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said on Saturday.

During the interaction with apartment owners and members of Bangalore Apartments Federation (BAF) at Vidhana Soudha, organised by the Urban Development Department, Mr. Shivakumar said the government was engaging with stakeholders to gather feedback ahead of finalising the proposed legislation.

He asked those who could not participate in the interaction to email their suggestions within 10 days.

Mr. Shivakumar said that the Bill was being brought at a time when Bengaluru had grown significantly, with nearly 19% of its residents living in apartments, and noted that no government had attempted to amend or overhaul the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972, since its introduction.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar during an interaction programme with representatives of Bengaluru Apartments' Association at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Saturday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Concerns

- Lack of clear transfer of ownership rights
- Undivided share of land from builders or promoters to apartment owners
- Delays in handover of completion certificates and documents
- Non-transfer of corpus funds
- Ambiguity over the status of common areas, commercial spaces
- Absence of a dedicated, time-bound dispute resolution mechanism for conflicts within associations
- Clearer provisions on redevelopment
- Amalgamation of ageing apartment complexes
- Consolidation of governance under a single comprehensive law
- Greater use of technology to ease compliance

The apartment representatives, during the meeting, raised concerns over the lack of clear transfer of ownership rights and undivided share of land from builders or promoters to apartment owners, delays in handover of completion certificates and documents, non-transfer of corpus funds, and ambiguity over the status of common areas and commercial spaces.

The participants also flagged the absence of a dedicated and time-bound dispute resolution mechanism for conflicts within associations, calling for clearer provisions on redevelopment and amalgamation of ageing apartment complexes, consolidation of governance under a single comprehensive law instead of multiple overlapping statutes, and greater use of technology to ease compliance.

> I am not expecting any praise or compliments for the work being done by the government. I want to be remembered for being good to people
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR**
> Deputy Chief Minister

'No praise, only votes'

Mr. Shivakumar also used the stage to seek the cooperation of apartment residents in the upcoming GBA elections.

"I am not expecting any praise or compliments for the work being done by the government. I want to be remembered for being good to people. The government belongs to the people. I don't want anything else but votes," he said.

I am an eight-time MLA, won't be threatened: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid ongoing political speculation on leadership changes in the State, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said he was "not intimidated" by threats, asserting his political experience.

During an interaction with representatives of the Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF) at Vidhana Soudha, he said, "I am an eight-time MLA and have gone to jail without fearing the Prime Minister or the Home Minister."

This came in response to a letter Mr. Shivakumar read out, written to him by a citizen, cautioning him against neglecting apartment residents. The letter stated that apartment owners could influence the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) elections and alleged that successive governments had neglected their concerns.

Describing the tone of the letter as 'threatening', the Deputy Chief Minister said in an argumentative tone, "We are not intimidated. One must have basic common sense about who they are talking to. If I did not want to help, why would I have called people here and sought their feedback?"

He referred to his electoral record, noting that his repeated victories reflected the trust and support of the people.

"I have won eight times. That is the kind of love people have shown, and it reflects the faith and trust they have placed in me. I have been part of Bengaluru's growth and development," he said.

Participants at an interaction programme with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Saturday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

This came in response to a letter Shivakumar read out, written to him by a citizen, cautioning him against neglecting apartment residents

Following the Deputy Chief Minister's comments, the Janata Dal (Secular) accused Mr. Shivakumar of 'intimidating citizens and displaying arrogance unbecoming of a constitutional office-holder'.

The JD(S), on its official X handle, said questioning elected representatives was a democratic right and alleged that Mr. Shivakumar had threatened citizens from the stage.

"Such conduct did not bring credit to public representatives in a democracy," the party said, adding that voters would respond appropriately during the polls.

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BEAUTIFUL, WARM 36, 160cm, well–educated professional (MNC). Affluent business family. Seeks kind, compatible groom. Any location. Caste/lang. no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365

BRIDE GROOM WANTED

Seeks Bride Groom (divorcee/widower) aged between 35-39 years (Engineer, Lecturer, Bank Officer) for Hindu Tamil Vanniyar 34 years Doctor MD DM Divorcee with Female Child, only daughter of doctor parents.

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DOCTOR

TAMIL MUSLIM Dr. 27/165 cm (Gen. Surgery 3rd year) seeks Dr. Groom / Group I Officer / Elite Grooms. Parents Drs. Well settled family. Own House in Trichy, Chennai, Shops, Modern Rice Mill Ct: 98658 10041, 86374 44451.

CHRISTIAN DOCTOR M.D. Christ Centered Good looking 36 years working girl Seeks proposals from god fearing Doctors, Engineers, Professionals 9444777290 / 8095119222

MBBS DOCTOR girl 30/155 doing PG from Kerala seeks alliance from Doctors, Engineers of well educated and broad minded family. Caste No Bar. 9400962384.

HINDU NADAR, 25, MBBS MD, 165, v fair, Hospital owner, seeks PG Doctor Multi millionaire family. Contact : 9940119844

Hindu Nadar, 31, 165cms very Fair, Doctor, Cardiology Fellowship. Hailing from highly affluent family. Currently working as a Cardiologist. Instructor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. Lives in US. Seeking an upstanding, well qualified, Professional, preferably a Doctor Groom working in USA.

Ct: +91 9791994449 vsajsr@gmail.com

NAIDU 91 Born Dr. Bride Simham / Magam MBBS, MD. Seeking Suitable Doctor / Equalant Groom. 8072214843

TELUGU Yadava 24yrs doctor bride Chennai based seeks PG doctor groom. Same Caste. Ph:9840632739

Fair, Cultured, Good Looking, Slim, Doctor Girl 36/165 MD, Cardiac Anesthesiologist, Chennai based doctor family Father Keralite Nair Mother from Tamilnadu. Looking for Doctor groom or Engineer from respectable family.

98400 50381 / 98409 85383

ENGLISH

HINDU/SC/AD/33/160 BE, MS in USA, employed in reputed MNC Bangalore seeks suitable groom from India/ USA/CANADA/UK. Ct +91 8073030092

FINANCE / BANKING

SC, AD, Bank Employee, Age: 32, Triupathi. Wanted Bank Employee or Government Employee. Ct: 90001 80420

MALAYALAM

EZHAVA, ADVOCATE and partner of a legal firm, aged 26 years, Pooradam slight Papam, ht. 167 cm, belongs to a educated Ezhava family, parents professionals. Legal background also preferred. Ph: 9946226326, 9497071326.

NRI

PARENTS FROM Vegetarian Hindu Pillai Well Settled in Dubai Seeks Alliance for their Only Fair 26 yrs Daughter Educated BE, MSBA & Employed in USA Suitable Bride Groom Equally Qualified & Employed in USA. Ct: Chandrasekaran 9840297122

HINDU Nadar Groom (USA) Wanted for Bride: Hindu Nadar 27Yrs B.Tech, MS(US),Working in US, Elite Business Family. Ph: 96599-91119/98423-44133

TAMIL

ADIDRAVIDA PR CSI Christian, 28/150, MBBS, Medical Officer Pvt.hospital seeks suitable Groom. Ph: 9943055896

GROOM WANTED CSI Nadar, 26yrs, MBBS, MD, Well Educated Family. Need Bangalore & Abroad Groom. 9841329471

CHRISTIAN, 29, ME, Engineer. PH: 8137003549.

CHRISTIAN, 30, Banglore, MS, VIP. PH: 8137003550.

CHRISTIAN,26, ACCA, NRI, 10 crores. PH: 8138900312.

NATHAMAR UDAYAR, Catholic, 1993 borned, HR professional–MNC , with null and void order looking for Christian boy below 35 yrs, premier institute or IT professional with legal, church orders with clean habits, WhatsAp 9443124608

CSI NADAR Bride 35 yr 175 cm ME, Govt Bank Officer Nagercoil seeks good job graduate groom any BC/FC caste. Whatsapp: 94425 71413

CHRISTIAN, 26, Gulf, ACCA, royale, business. Ph: 8138900312

CHRISTIAN – AD, Govt Doctor Age – 32 Seeks Suitable Doctor, Engineer, Govt.Officer Groom. Ct :90929 62442

GROOM WANTED CSI Nadar, 28yrs, MBBS, MS, well educated family, Contact: 9380791999/ 9841329471

MUDALIYAR/PILLAI PROF qufd working groom wanted for 37, MCA Fair Hastham, well settled Chennai 8220757159

CHRISTIAN, PILLAI, 36,M.Sc.,M Phil., Asst.Prof. Pondy,Seeks Groom FC/BC, below 39 yrs. Ct: 98946-77892.

CSI NADAR 29/178cm USA MS Seeks CSI Nadar Groom from USA 9944885050.

HINDU/SC AD, 30 years, 5'4" MCA Team lead @ an MNC, 14LPA, owns a new 2BHK Flat in Chennai, Simham Magam Bride (same caste) Cont: 9840365908

WELL SETTLED Doctor, MD (Pathology) , DCH, 40 yrs, Mudaliyar, Divorcee without child seeks well settled groom. CNB. Contact: 8056868090

GROOM WANTED SC (AD), 27yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Well Educated Family background in Chennai. Contact: 6385293227

RICH MUDALIYAR, 30yrs, B.Arch, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9176491777

DOCTOR

GROOM WANTED

A Graceful and accomplished young woman from a reputed Padmashali Family, 27yrs Age, 5'.5" height Pursuing Post Graduation in General Surgery, she blends confidence with warmth and a refined outlook. She seeks a well-settled any Groom doing PG/Super Speciality (Medical or Surgical) from same community or any B.C Community aged 28 to 31 years, preferably from Doctor Family in and around of North Andhra.

nseppnet@gmail.com 96424 87301

TAMIL

BANGALORE BASED CSI Christian Nadar girl from upper middle class family – fair, slim, 5ft 6inches, divorced, 41, no kids. BE, MBA. Working with MNC, earning over 40 LPA. Seeking professionally qualified, god fearing Christian groom, below 45, no kids, from established family. Caste, language no bar. Contact mother on +918296019442/ mozartscadence@gmail.com

VADAGALAI KOUNDINYAM Mrigaseersham (Dec 2001), Height 167cm, B.Tech (IIT Madras) Employed. Seeking an equally qualified Vadagalai groom with traditional values and a modern outlook Contact:shriboovarahan@gmail.com 9884056708.

GROOM WANTED CNB, 31yrs, BE, Divorce, No issues, Industrial business background in Chennai Ct: 6385293227

MUDALIAR 25, M Tech 162cm Good Looking Well Settled Family Seeks Groom CNB.Contact:8778514465/7200866346

MUDALIAR 30/160 Remarriage Ayilyam BArch Rich Pondy seek Er, Dr, Business Equal Status Geetham 9884858014

SOZHIYAVELLALAR PILLAI Age 30 BE (CSE) Working in Pvt Sector Chennai, Seeks Groom Preferable from Pillai/Mudaliar Age 30–33, BE Working In IT Field Employed in Chennai/ India/ Abroad. Ct: Gowdhamann 9342276143

TAMIL IYENGAR Girl 27yrs B.Tech MBA. Seeks Suitable Groom From any Brahmin Preferably Iyengar. 9444237295

HINDU NADAR, BE, 29/160, Executive - MHA, Central Govt officer, seeks well mannered groom below 32yrs from respectable family, employed in Central govt sector - grade - A, RBI / NABARD / IFSCA / SEBI or Civil Services - IRS belonging to same caste, Ct: 90957 35700

HINDU, 28, widow, Rich, BA, 10 crores. PH: 8138900412.

HINDU, 24, Rich/affluent, 100+c. PH: 7356483111.

MUDALIAR (CNB): 24/ V.Fair, MBBS, Doctor, Father doing Real Estate, Jewellery Business, Construction, Chennai, Seeks groom – Business / Doctor. Contact: 8925019776

SAIVA PILLAI girl, 25 BE(CSc) wkg in MNC as Software Engineer. Parents invite proposals from educated, respectable and strict vegetarian families of same caste. BE/ Btech Software Engineer groom, from same profession and settled in Bangalore preferred. Share details sk_pillai@outlook.com 6364789344

GROOM WANTED CNB, 30yrs, MBBS, MD (US), Working in US, Well Educated Family in Chennai Contact:6385293227

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 28yrs, M.sc (UK), Elite business family. Contact: 9380791999/ 9841329471

HINDU, 33, divorced, caste no bar, Gulf, 20 lakhs, MPhil. Ph: 8137003550

HINDU, 27, Yadava, Govt, 30 lakhs. Ph: 8138901281

HINDU, 32, Chettiar, MS, USA. Ph: 8138900487

HINDU, 35, divorced, MBA, private, 58 lakhs, expecting Level 1, Govt. Job. Ph: 8138009235

HINDU SC(AD) 27/158 Beautiful MSc Psychology Daughter of Executive Director NLCIL (Retd) Seeks well Employed Groom Ct:9443289673/ 9443074657

DKV 33YRS Fair B.Tech MBA IIT Working MNC 24 Lac PA Chennai Seeking Suitable Match CNB Ph: 9940507235

Mudhaliar Remarriage 30 Bcom MBA 4yrs Girl baby Chennai Seeks Chennai Groom CNB Geetham 98848 58014

HINDU SAURASHTRA Swathi Natch athiram 24/162 fair PG girl Upper mid dle class family seeks fair age 26-28, well employed groom in IT/Business from well settled family 9677770072

GROOM WANTED Mudaliyar, CNB, 26yrs, BE, MBA, Seeking Elite business Groom only Contact 6385293227

WELL EDUCATED, 36 , Seeks Compatible Groom. Caste No Bar. Call / WA 94896 95984.

SAIVA VELLALAR 29 years old widow with 3 years old son, working as a Nurse, seeks a decent Never Married Bride Groom from Saiva Vellalar, Mudaliar and Chettiar sec. Divorcees pls excuse. Contact : 9843332094

✔ **HINDU NAIDU,** 29/165, Ph.D, Post Doctoral Research Associate Bride(from TN), Parents of US working seeks Telugu Groom working in US. Ct: +91 99449 33737 / email id: sspssr22@gmail.com

TAMIL

BRIDE GROOM WANTED

Hindu Nadar, 25 yrs, 157 cm, M.Sc., Ph.D (Mathematics) Kadagam, Punarpoosam Kanyakumari Dist Settled in Chennai.

SEEKS SUITABLE GROOM FROM Ph.D / M.E / M.Tech and equivalent qualified Height : 165 cm - 175 cm Age : 27 to 30 yrs

9444384300

(Preferably within Chennai)

GROOM WANTED

PILLAI / ISAIVELLALAR, 27/167 cm, MBBS, doing MD from well settled family seeks professionally qualified Groom from Chennai. Doctors (MD and above).

Ct: 9443255479

BRIDES WANTED

ADVOCATE

MUDALIAR, 31, B.A.,LLB., LLM., Chennai Based Lawyer Practising In Supreme Court, Delhi, Mirugaseerisham, Midhuna Rasi, Well Settled Family At Chennai With Social Status, Seeks Professionally Qualified Bride, SCNB. Contact: 9444011433; 9445302299

COSMOPOLITAN

SMART, KIND 30, finance professional. UK–educated. Affluent, cultured family. Seeks compatible bride. Caste/lang no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

Arya Vysya, Caste no bar. 30, 178, Software 45 LPA, well-settled Seeking a middle-class girl. Ph: 8555072557.

BOY 34 yrs MBA well settled in pharma industry, seeking Graduate girl from Bangalore 9353940454

BANGALORE BASED unmarried Kannada Smartha brahmin boy DOB Mar 1979. BE working MNC as senior HR exec with 1 Cr annual salary seeks educated Hindu upper caste single girl below 43 willing to settle in Bangalore. contact 9980206008

DOCTOR

SEEKS GOOD Looking Doctor Bride, for a MBBS, MD, General Medicine Doctor (RC, Christian, Nadar, Age 28) working in Chettinad Health City, Chennai. Contact: Parents–9500085244

MALAYALAM

Hindu Nadar Boy, Trivandrum, 33/181, Thrikketta, PhD Computer Science from Australia (thesis submitted) seeks alliance from any educated Hindu Family. Contact: 7012888675

ARISTOCRATIC AFFLUENT handsome Menon Boy, 27, 180 cm, B.Tech (NIT), MS (USA), Pooradam. Presently working at USA. Seeks alliance from parents of professionally qualified well settled, beautiful Nair girls preferably below 25 years. 9446540872.

MARATHI

SUITABLE MATCH for Marathi Vegetarian Brahmin boy Age 31,170 cm,MS IIT Madras, Job MNC Bengaluru 35 LPA, No any addiction, All Brahmin accepted Call 8305505090 , 7067203040

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

DEVAR KALLAR, 36, 171 cms, BA in Hons, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Father is a working professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from equivalent community. Contact: 6366448344

NAIDU, 26, 183 cms, B.Tech, Entrepreneur. Father is a Distinguished Industrialist. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from similar Telugu background. Contact: 6366448343

CASTE NO BAR, VELLALAR, 26, 175 cms, Architect. Lives in Madurai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from similar background. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN IYER, 26, 164 cms, Pursuing MD. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated Doctor match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

REDDIAR, 33, 170 cms, Divorced, MBA, Entrepreneur. Lives in Bangalore. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar family background. Contact: 6366448343

ARYA VYSYA, 24, 163 cms, Management Professional. Business class family. Looking for a suitable match from similar background in Chennai/ Hyderabad/ Bangalore. Contact: 6366448343

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TAMIL

NATHAMAN UDAYAR, 26, Good Looking , IT Professional in Chennai. Seeking Suitable Grooms from the Same Caste with Good Family Background Preferably Working in Chennai or Bangalore. Brokers Excuse. Ct:9677050333

HINDU MUDALIAR, Age 30, 167cm Fair & Charming Working in MNC, Seeks Working Boy from Mudaliar / Pillai / Soliya Vellalar Caste.Ct 9444149262

BRIDEGROOM WANTED

Seeks Bridegroom (unmarried), 1984-1989 born, Educated, Good looking Groom (Reputed Business in Tamilnadu) for Hindu Tamil Chettiar traditional girl(unmarried), 1989 born Hastham Kanni Rasi, daughter of reputed Jewellery business family in Tamilnadu. Suitable alliance can send details along with horoscope

WA: 94421 10063

Groom wanted

Convent Educated Vanniya Kula Kshatriya, 24 yrs, Bride, B.Com, LLM, LLB, Hons, Reputed very well to do business family seek, AIS officer TN cadre, Group1, Doctor, Lawyer Cosmopolitan Groom.

WhatsApp/call-Dad: 9962331777

COSMOPOLITAN

WANTED AN educated and professionally qualified bride with strong Protestant Christian upbringing and values for our son NZ citizen 34/180 MNC Post Graduate Engineer in Melbourne, Australia. Bride should be resident in Australia. Region/Language/Caste/Denomination No bar. Please email sundaresanpaul@gmail.com or call +64 212 515 040.

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

29 YRS,178CMS, B.E. Software,Chennai, Rs.10L p.a well-settled, seeks employed Christian bride. Ct.9443099271

DIVORCEE

THOUGHTFUL, SUCCESSFUL 48, 180cm, well–educated, US–based professional. Seeks compatible bride. Caste/language no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365

NRI

CANADA BASED Groom 29 Years, 180 cm, Hindu, Kanni Rasi, Hastham MBA (CPA), Financial Analyst – Govt.of Canada, PR (Citizen) Seeks Good Natured, Professionally qualified Hindu Bride (Preferably CA/ICWA) willing to settle in Canada Contact: WhatsApp Call or Message: 8925070777 Mail id: terra1531@gmail.com

SINDHI

SINDHI BOY 30 yrs, 5'6", wheatish, MS IITM, Software Eng, employed in MNC BLR, looking for employed Hindu girl, WA: 9460174652

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN 39 years engineer working in MNC+BUSINESS well settled at chennai wanted a graduate girl from a decent Christian family–cont 9884825317

TAMIL

MUDHALIAR 31 162cm BTech Abudhabi working in MNC seeking High Abroad Profiles CNB Geetham 9884858014

SC/AD 38 BEsenior software engineer TCS - Chennai Rs.17 Lakh PA never married seeks Qualified / Employed Groom Ct: 9952147216 / 88380 34943

TELUGU

TELUGU DEVANGA Chettiar, Coimbatore, 34/175cm. Civil engineer with Master Degree, Managing Parents Company Affairs, Seeking Groom with Nagadosham. 9894702231 / 9380882648

NAIDU GIRL 29/165cm , Aswini pursuing PhD doctoral studies in Satellite Communications Neuromorphic computing European space agency - Europe seeking suitable groom PhD / MS in USA. Ct: 98401 03686

BALIJA NAIDU 35Y/165cm PhD scholar , academic trainer and mentor in Chennai seeks suitably qualified groom under 40yrs within India only. Ph: 97909 08109

Caste No Bar 30 Years ,160 cm MD Doctor Bride Settled Family. Suitable Groom Doctor or S.W.E. 9573121555

TELUGU

NAIDU 25/165 Fair, Beautiful, MBBS, MS–Doing, 700000.PA, Affluent Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

Kapu Girl 44 Yrs, Educated Working in MNC. Seeks well settled Groom upto 45 Yrs. Contact: 9039126957.

URDU

URDU SUNNI Muslim, Parents from Tamilnadu seeks Alliance for their daughter 23/160cm Wheatish complexion Canadian citizen OCI Card Holder Working as a HR Administrator looking for suitable Alliance from respectable family. US or Canadian Resident preferred. Groom should be from respectable Religious Educated Upper Middle Class or Rich Family. Contact: 9043017868, imrandr33@gmail.com

SMU 27 fair Dentist well settle looking alliance from decent family Abroad also preferable.Ct. 9840025035watsap

✔ **SUNNI MUSLIM** girl, 94born , 164cm , B.Tech ,never married,working in PSU bank Mumbai.U.P rooted family well settled in Rajasthan. Father retired Addl.Director. #9461179587

TAMIL

SC AD, Age 29, M.Tech, working in MNC, Chennai seeks suitable employed Bride. Preferable RC Christian Bride. Contact: 8939177665

CHRISTIAN, 27, M.Arch, Private. PH: 8138901294.

CHRISTIAN, 28, MBA, Private, expecting good looking bride. Ph: 8138900412

CHRISTIAN, 37, BMM, MNC, 50 lakhs.Ph: 8138900470

CHRISTIAN DOCTOR, 39/169, M.D Paediatric, Neonatologist, profession in Trivandrum, Fair, Handsome, Divorce - No Kids, seeks fair, Doctor/Non Medico Bride, age 30 to 35, preferably South India, Caste no bar, Contact: 86100 20066, 94433 26119

Graduate, 47 yrs, Divorcee, Christian, BC, Chennai, Private sector, 1.00 lakh p.m. Contact 9566197522.

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 37yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

RC 1973 born 165cm MA MBA divorce manager Govt. 1.1 Lpm seeks any bride ct: 8148842983

CHRISTIAN B.E. MBA (NIT& IIM)29 years well Placed boy Seeks Proposals From God Fearing Employed Girls Contact: 9444777290 / 7397049611

ARCOT MUDALIAR MBA IIM 170/Sep 88 Thiruvathirai (Clear Horoscope) Unmarried Handsome Fair Teetotaller 62Lakhs, Chennai. Seeks suitable match.CasteNoBar. 9940434055, 9742010729

G.GOWRISHANKAR, 36/5'9", B.Com, DAE, working in London as Supervisor in Visual Effects, Earning 80 LPA. Parents intercaste Hindu. Expecting Bride willing to work in London.Contact: 9677090227

HINDU, VANNIYA Kula Kshatriya, 29, 171, B.E, M.S – (Poland) IT, Operations Manager– Poland. Sal: 20L INR. Seeks bride from Bachelors/ Masters, Age 23 to 27, Preferred working. Ct: 9080998896/ Whatsapp: 9791051098. Email: kishorekrazz96@gmail.com

✔ **Mudaliar 36** Yrs/ 174 cm, Chennai, IT Emp seeks Hindu Girl Contact: 9790877562.

MUDALIYAR CA Sal 24L Age 40,Never Married Kettai Own House 6acre Land Sub Caste ok 9677622641/ 9962294842

PILLAI 35/173 Moolam BE Civil Own Company Chennai seek qualified Pillai Mudaliar Bride.Geetham 9884858014

PILLAI 45 Remarriage 15years son 170cm BTech Ms Chennai seeks graduate CNB Bride Geetham 9884858014

TAMIL MUDALIAR, BE MBA, Fair, 35y, 175cm, MNC, Lead Consultant, Coimbatore. 15 LPA. Seeks Good Looking Educated bride. Ct: 99440 74364

MUDHALIYAR, B.E. Age–34, Ayilyam, Australia, 8L P/m, Own House, 15 acre Land Sub Caste ok. 73054 60763

HINDU, 27, MS, 50 crores, any caste, royal. PH: 8138900312.

HINDU, 29, caste no bar, NRI, 10 crores, divorced. PH: 8137003551.

VANNIAKULAKSHTRIAR Groom 43yrs, Divorced shortlived no issue. B.E, M.B.A(UK). Working in IT Company Chennai. 15laks/PA Contact: 9944928521, 9487935521.

✔ **AGAMUDAYAR, HINDU,** 30/180cm, Good–looking, MS (CSE), High–earning IT CEO from Affluent, well–settled family in Chennai. Seeks Educated bride from a well–settled Tamil family with similar background (CNB). Ph:7845821205

PILLAI 44 Divorcee M.Com Central Govt service Rs.13.50 lakhs PA seeks bride caste no bar 9094020665

VANNIYAR 39/180 Revathy, BSc, MSc, Phd., pursuing. Professor/Digital Marketing & Running Own Office, 15 LPA seeks educated Bride. 9840044473

✔ **MUDALIAR THIRUVADURAI Mithunam rich&affluent slim fair&handsome 6.1 Sep–95 boy BE CSE Sr Dev 18LPA Wipro, seeks well–educated slim fair good character Girl, doing job or not doesnt matter, fr well–settled family Ct/WA 94432 28917**

SC AD Age 26, B.Tech, M.Tech, Al–ML Engineer in US–based Company, Hyd, Well–Settled boy, Seeking Suitable Employed Bride, Ct: 9344005479

BRIDE WANTED CNB, 37yrs, M.Tech, Affluent and Industrial background in Chennai. Contact: 6385293227

TAMIL

FOR 31 yrs M.Tech working in infosys Chennai Mahindra city Reddiyar Rahu Kethu Dosham. Contact 9444141613/ 8637491812

HINDU, 31, caste no bar, business, Royal family, 50 crores. Ph: 7356483111

AUDITOR/ 46 Chennai/ 30 L p.a Seeks Any Vegetarian, Hindu Girl. Contact : 9884398109

DKV 36YRS B.Tech Manager working in PSU Bank 18Lac PA Chennai Seeking Suitable Bride. CNB.Ct: 9940507235

HINDU–BE/SWE/172/34/25LPA/AYILLAM–KATAGAM .SETTLED in Bangalore, educated and financially stable. Seeking Bride from educated and decent family. Con 9845401461.

GAVARA/BALIJA NAIDU, 26yrs, 173 cm, slim, fair, B.Tech, Simma Rasi–Uthiram. Software–employed and in family business; income 30L p.a. Affluent export–import Business, Chennai. Seeking well–educated, good–looking bride. Ct: 79048 43 429

NADAR, 37 / 14.4 lakhs pa. Divorcee, no kids, M.E.Phd. Proff. Engg College, Chennai. seeks suitable bride. caste, religion no bar. Ct: 94432 69548

CNB NAIDU BDS MBA (UK) 1981, working as CEO in Blr Hospital with good assets seeks any PQ Bride Dr./Engr/ IT/ Nurse from good Family. V.J.Naidu 9886782390/ 9962246305.

HINDU NADAR, 34yrs/180cm, Kettai Viruchigam, Diploma, Jewellery shop Tuticorin seeks graduated Bride. Ct: 9791951823

HINDU PILLAI, Handsome boy, 24 Years, 170 cms, B.E. Software Engineer TCS Chennai seeks well educated working bride. Ph : 9361143315.

MUDALIYAR 36Y BE/LLB 170cm, 14 Lacs, well and settled family little vitiligo seeks bride. Ct: 94452 42964

NAIDU (GAVARA), 34, BE., Sadhayam Kumbam, Working in Pvt.Bank, Coimbatore, Rs.9/LPA, Native: Srivilliputhur, Subsect No Bar, seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 99401 86888, 98403 80503

Mudaliar 30, BE MBA 177cm 28Lacs PA smart look well settled family seeks Bride CNB.8778514465 /7200866346

PARENTS INVITE suitably qualified, 26-28 yrs, family loving Tamil Hindu brides, for Pune based Tamil groom, 31 yrs, Prof in Pharmacy and Research Scholar with own houses. Contact Mr. Sukumar N. 9422028059

MUDALIAR/PILLAI DIVORCEE (No Kids) BE MBA 32/163 Group 1 Officer working in Coimbatore, Preferably from same community seeking Graduate Girl Divorcee/First Marriage. CT: 94868 53954.

TAMIL 45 B.E 9994351766 Carleton Nadar https://ingeniousdesigntech.com IISc https://tamilfilmmakerspro.com

SOZHIYA VELLALAR Pillai, 35, BE (CSE), Software Engineer from Coimbatore, seeks a bride aged 28–33 with a graduate qualification. All stars welcome except Aswini, Magham, Ayilyam, Kettai, and Moolam. Any Hindu community. Contact: +91–9940649141

1984 BORN, MCA, Coimbatore Settled, Garments Export Business, Looking for House Wife/Home Maker to be in a Joint Family. Education/ Wealth not Important.Matrimony Agents Excuse, Ct 9489603438

HINDU MUDALIAR 38, Fair, 168cm, BE MBA, Technical Manager (IT), 21 LPA, Chennai Seeks Any professional. Caste no bar. Ct: 9786849351

WELL Settled Tamil based Intercaste (SC+Brahmin) Dr Couple, looking for suitable Bride for their Son 32 Yrs (Ragu-Kethu) Dr MD Pathology KMCH, Cbe. Mob: 9842221324, 9894186469.

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar, 28yrs, BE,M.sc (UK), 5lakhs pm, Elite business family Ct:9841329471/ 9380791999

SC (AD), 30yrs, B.Tech, Very Well Educated Family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9176491777

CHENNAI, MUDLR Ph.D, Tetolr, Divorced, 42Yrs,GM Chess Govt 2Lac/ Mth.Educ simple Any Cast,Girl 9884171419

VADAKALAI Iyengar, Bharathwajam, Punar Poosam 46/168 MSIT - IT Vice President MNC 32 Lakhs PA never married seeking unmarried Girl in any sort of Vegetarian back ground. Send BHP to rajeshvasan1979@gmail.com Mob: 7395989198.

VADAKALAI - HARITA Gothram, Mithunam, Thiruvathirai (Sep.1998), Height 170 cms, B.E., I.T., Professional, Chennai. Seeks employed bride. Contact sundara1969@gmail.com Mobile - 99526 34577, 80729 60464.

TAMIL

HINDU, VANNIYAR, 36, BCA, MBA, Ht –5.5, Wheatish Color, HR (Asst Manager) in IT, Sal: 1.5L PM 8148017757

HINDU IYER, Kanva Gothram, 1975, Revathi, Teetotaler, unmarried businessman from Kanniyakumari Dist. seeks Iyer/Iyengar Bride from Tamil Nadu or Kerala. Good Looking Graduate-Unmarried or Divorcee (without issues) acceptable. Ct: 98428 22128.

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom

Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only

CT: 93842 76066

Brahmin 47, Working in Chennai Pvt Ltd, Own House, Fair, Clean habit only Son. Ct: 97914 53205/ 99629 17322. Caste no bar.

Hindu SC- AD, Age 32, B.Sc Psychology, Elite family, seeks any degree Bride, for a Low Vision Groom. Caste no bar. Ct: 94443 55050/ 98401 20243.

HINDU SC-AD 30/169 B.E., MBA well placed boy from well settled family seeks suitable bride. Caste no bar. Contact 9448664461

Brahmin Boy Vadamal 29 years 183cm well Educated working in MNC @ Chennai Drawing 1.50 Lakh P/M looking graduate Bride from a decent family of any Brahmin group Sub Sect No bar. Ct: 9940037800 / 9840861130

Viswakarma 33/170cm, BE (EEE) Sr. Engg working in Ashok Leyland Macroline Control Chennai, Earning 4.2L / PA, seeks well Educated good Looking Bride. Star : Sathayam, Rasi: Kumbam. Contact: 98400 39922.

✔ **Thevar-Maravar 26 years Boy B.E from Rich Family 180 cm, wheatish Smart seeks Girl from Business running family or CA or Gr I officers from Mukkulathor. WhatsApp 7358788191.**

Alliance for 32 Years, B.E, Valluvan, well placed in leading I.T. Sector, Chennai, seeks suitable match. Contact - 09968268646.

TELUGU

ALLIANCE INVITED for a well–settled Engineer/MBA groom from Chennai. Seeking a bride aged below 40 years, belonging to the Kammanaidu community, qualified as Doctor (Medical / Dental) or Engineer / MBA. Contact: 8778796515. akrwindmill@gmail.com

BALIJA NAIDU Parents Settled Australia Masters / 31 / 185Cms Fair Handsome Well Settled Good Family Values Invites Alliance from Similar Background. Chithappa: 9884056059

BRIDE WANTED Rich Naidu, 29yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Divorce, No issues, Elite Industrial background in Chennai. Contact: 63852 93227

PANTA REDDY, 46/170 B.Tech, 10LPA, Unmarried, Educated, well settled family chennai. Seeks Reddy / Naidu Bride, Sub–Caste No Bar. 9940360491

NAIDU 30/180 Handsome BE,MS,PRO. MR,Google USA 200000.USD.PA,Elite Family 50.CR,CNB.9043991629, 9043987029

URDU

URDU MUSLIM Age 35 /172cm DCE,BA. Business Rs.25Lac/PA Well Settled, Seeks Graduate, Beautiful Religious Bride. Ct:9444324785 / 9790706354

35 YRS divorcee working in Dubai based company from a dakhni muslim family in Trichy looking for an educated girl (unmarried / divorcee Issueless) Contact : 9841060600.

SMU 35/182cm, BE, Employed / Well Settled / Divorced/ No Children seeks Educated / Religious/ Divorced /Widow / Not Married Bride, No Children. Age Below 32 years. Contact: 98843 45754

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Australia All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. 8248757840

THE HINDU

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Birth centenary of entomologist Ananthakrishnan to be celebrated on December 15 and 16

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Entomological Society of India will organise the National Dialogue on Insect in Health, Agriculture and Environment at ICAR-NBAIR, Yelahanka Campus, Bengaluru, on December 15 and 16 to mark the birth centenary of prominent entomologist T.N. Ananthakrishnan. The event will see several sessions in honour of the late scientist, including sessions on 'You are how much you eat: Caste and nutrition in the Indian paper wasp' and 'Signal transduction and omics in plant defence mechanisms under insect attack' by Raghavendra Gadagkar and Madhavan Soundararajan, respectively.

The sessions would also be held on Indian Thysanoptera in memory of Ananthakrishnan who wrote the book titled *Taxonomy of Indian Thysanoptera*. A special edition of the *Indian Journal of Entomology* will be released during the event to celebrate 100 years of Ananthakrishnan.

A native of Taracad in Palakkad district of Kerala, Ananthakrishnan started his teaching career at Madras Christian College.

Later, he took up a lecturer position at Loyola College, Chennai, before moving onto become the founder-director of the Entomology Research Institute.

Later, he also served as the Director of Zoological Survey of India.

Ananthakrishnan is remembered for his work on Thysanoptera, an agricultural and horticultural crop-damaging insect. Ananthakrishnan unveiled around 400 new nominal taxa of Thysanoptera and pioneered research into insect polymorphism.

Two mowed down by car

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two daily wage labourers were killed when a car mowed them down on NICE Road in west Bengaluru on Friday evening. The deceased have been identified as Rangamma, 45, and Chowdamma, 50, from Yadgir.

The incident occurred around 6.15 p.m when they were crossing the road some distance away from the toll plaza near Hosakerehalli. Satyanarayana, who was reportedly driving at high speed towards Magadi Road, mowed down both women and allegedly sped away without stopping.

On Saturday morning, the Kengeri Traffic Police arrested Satyanarayana, a resident of Katreguppe. The car allegedly involved in the incident has been seized. "We took up a hit-and-run case. The accused was taken into custody," the police said.

Sangappa FILE PHOTO

Sangappa nominated to EC of VTU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sangappa, Professor & Director (Admissions & PR) of Kammavari Sangham Group of Institutions (KSIT), Bengaluru, has been nominated as one of the Executive Council Members of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belagavi.

His nomination has been approved by the Karnataka Governor for a period of three years, with effect from December 8, 2025. He represents Karnataka at Indian Society for Technical Education, New Delhi, as its National Executive Council Member.

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station,
Akurdi, Pune - 411044 Email: pune-metroline3@pmrda.gov.in

E-Tender Notice No. 56 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of **"Annual Maintenance and Restoration of BT / CC Road Surface, Footpaths, and Other Miscellaneous Works along the Maan-Hinjawadi to Shivajinagar Metro Line-3 Alignment, Pune".**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: www.mahatenders.gov.in from 24/12/2025 at 15.00 Hrs. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 19/01/2026 upto 15.00 Hrs. The changes if any can be available on www.mahatenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

18th ANNIVERSARY

BECAUSE OF YOU, WE ARE

Mrs. RAJESWARI
(PROP: SRI RAMAJAYAM BUS SERVICE, VELLORE)
W/o. Dr.G. Viswanathan
Founder - Chancellor, VIT University.
Dr. G.V. Sampath
(Founder - Chairman, Naruvi Hospitals)
Anitha Sampath - Nithin Sampath - Abirami Sampath
naruvi HOSPITALS
VELLORE

27th ANNIVERSARY

19.09.1936 — 14.12.1998

Thiru. N.P.V. RAMASAMY UDAYAR
Founder - Chancellor,
Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (DU)

You have proved that education alone
will not yield one's future.
Creativity, entrepreneurship, hard work and
relentless effort are all
necessary to become a leader.
The greatest wealth you have
left to this country is a
medical citadel (SRIHER) which has
paved the way for excellent
health care professionals.
On this day, we bow our head and
salute you for your formidable thought
and epoch making endeavour.

V.R. Venkataachalam
Chancellor, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (DU)
Family Members
Trustees, Sri Ramachandra Educational and Health Trust
Faculty, Staff & Students

SRI RAMACHANDRA
INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
(Category -I Deemed to be University) Porur, Chennai

Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board
Kalyana Suraksha Bhavana, ITI Compound, Dairy Circle,
Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560029
Phone: 080-29753354/56, Email: karbuildworkerswelfare@gmail.com
No: KBOCWWB/NOTIFICATIONS/SAFETY KIT/2025-26 Dated:12-12-2025

Short Term e-tender Notification(Call-2)

Tenders (Two cover) are hereby invited by Karnataka Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board from interested Agencies as per Terms and conditions described in the Bid documents for Supply and Delivery of Various Trade Wise Safety Kits to the Registered Building and other Construction Workers in the Jurisdiction of L.O Kalburgi, L.O Yallapura & L.O Gadag. Tenders shall be submitted electronically through K.P.P.Portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in of the Government of Karnataka. Last date of submission of tenders is as per K.P.P.Portal. For further details and information can be obtained from the Joint Secretary, KBOCWWB during office hours.

Sd/-
Joint Secretary,
KB&OCWWB
DIPR/CP/4440/HITEC MEDIA/2025-26

KRANTHIVEERA SANGOLLI RAYANNA SAINIK SCHOOL
Sangolli Village, Sangolli Post, Bailhongal Taluk,
Belagavi District - 591115.
Email: principalsrss@gmail.com Website: www.ksrss.com

No.:- K.S.R.S.S/Notification/C.R/2025-26/65 Dated: 12.12.2025

Inviting Applications

Applications are invited by Kranthiveera Sangolli Rayanna Sainik School located at Sangolli Village, Bailahongal Taluk, Belagavi District vide Recruitment Notification No 01/December-2025 dated 12.12.2025 for the following posts given below on Contract basis.

Sl No	Posts	No
1	Female Warden	1
2	Male Nurse	1
3	Clerk (LDC)	2

It is hereby notified to download the applications from the school's website and submit the filed applications on or before 26.12.2025 by post.

Sd/- Commissioner
Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Sainik School
DIPR/CP/4436/AKAR/2025-26

कार्यालय नगर निगम जयपुर
(जलेबी चौक, बडी चौपड़)
क्रमांक :– जसअ/2025/352 दिनांक: 11.12.2025
–: : ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या अधि.अभि.विद्युत पार्ट–II 31 से 32/2025–26 : :–
केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार के सभी विभागों मे पंजीकृत उपयुक्त श्रेणी के ठेकेदारों एवं नगर निगम जयपुर के पंजीकृत संवेदकों से नगर निगम जयपुर पार्ट–II से संबंधित ई–निविदा प्रकाशित की जाती है। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत, टेण्डर बेचने तथा प्राप्त करने की तिथि, टेण्डर शर्तें आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण नगर निगम जयपुर की वेब साईट www.jaipurmc.org, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.rajathan.gov.in पर निम्न UBN No. JMC 2526WSOB02243 To 2526WSOB02244 पर देखा जा सकता हैं।
इच्छुक संवेदकों को ई–निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक हैं।
अधिशाषी अभियन्ता (विद्युत)
नगर निगम जयपुर, पार्ट–II
राज.संवाद/सी/25/15713

कार्यालय नगर पालिका मण्डल केशवराय पाटन जिला – बून्दी (राज0)
npalika3@gmail.com ph.no. 07438-264346
क्रमांक :– न0पा0के0पा0/2025–26/3471–73 दिनांक :– 05.12.2025
ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 3/2025–26
नगर पालिका के0पाटन द्वारा नगर पालिका केशावराय पाटन में वित्तिय वर्ष 2025–26 के लिए श्रमिक/मैनपावर आपूर्ति हेतु वार्षिक अनुबंध करने हेतु द्विलिफाफा पद्धति/ई–निविदा पद्धति से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। कार्य की निविदा बेचे जाने की दिनांक 05.12.2025 समय प्रातः 10.00 बजें से तथा अपलोड़ करने की दिनांक 25.12.2025 सायं 6.00 बजे तक निविदा शर्तें आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण http://sppp.raj.nic.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती हैं।

Sr.No.	UBN No.	Tender cost (in lac)
1	DLB2526SLOB26489	120.00

अध्यक्ष
नगर पालिका के0पाटन
अधिशाषी अधिकारी
नगर पालिका के0पाटन
राज.संवाद/सी/25/15513

NASHIK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, NASHIK
E-Tender Cell Department
Notice No. 51 (Year 2025-26)
Nashik Municipal Corporation, Nashik E-Tender Cell (Public Works Department) vide E-Tender Notice No. 51 (Year 2025-26) invites bids for 1 works which will be displayed on the website www.mahatenders.gov.in. from dt.13/12/2025 to 29/12/2025 up to 3.00 pm. Last date for acceptance of tender will be dt. 29/12/2025.
Note - All further necessary notices/clarifications will be published on the online website.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
E-Tender Cell
Nashik Municipal Corporation
जा.क्र./मनपा/राज व जन/३९५/२०२५
दि.१२/१२/२०२५
गोदा प्रदुषण टाळा, भविष्य संभाळा.

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POWER SAVINGS GUIDE

Transmen cricket team from Karnataka prepares for first national outing

When the team of eleven play their first match against the Maharashtra team on December 15, every run will be hard-earned, scored after a longer innings off the field

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

According to the team, accessing grounds and nets to practise regularly has been a challenge.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Monday will mark a watershed sporting moment for Karnataka when a transmen team representing the State will participate in a national-level cricket tournament for the first time.

When the team of eleven led by captain Aadhityanath and vice-captain Bhuvan play their first match against the Maharashtra team on December 15, every run will be hard-earned, scored after a longer innings off the field.

All-transmen team

The Transgender Persons' Cricket Tournament that will be held from December 15 to 20 in Punjab is being organised for the second time by the Transgender Athletes Foundation. In the first tournament that was held around a year ago, the Kerala team emerged as winner.

While teams can consist of transmen and transwomen, no cisgender individuals are allowed. All the eleven members of the Karnataka team are transmen.

"We couldn't participate last time. Our team was formed only about a year ago," said Aadhityanath. It was a friendly march held around a year ago in Bengaluru before the Pride March that led to the formation of the team. The team members participating in the tournament include Aadhityanath, Nathan, Bhuvan, Sanju, Dhruvanth, Ayush, Abhi, Sameem, B., Rahmathullah, and Aatiq.

Challenges

According to the team, accessing grounds and nets to practise regularly has been a challenge. "For this tournament in particular, we have been able to practise only once," said Aadhityanath. A major hindrance has been high rents charged in the city.

"For nets, we have to cough up ₹10,000 to practise for a day. None of us have the means to bear such huge expenses, nor do we have any government support. Most of us draw monthly salaries that are equivalent to one day's rent for the nets," said Aadhityanath.

While there are many more who are interested in joining the team, financial issues pose a hindrance. "Many don't even know about the existence of such a team because we haven't been able to participate in matches due to financial limitations," he added.

A pillar of support has been Raahi, a Karnataka-based organisation that works on the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Initially, the organisation provided the team with jerseys and kitbags. With the help of Raahi, the team managed to access the grounds of RBANMS school in Bengaluru occasionally for practice. While Raahi helped to raise the funds for the travel to Punjab, the accommodation and food expenses during the tournament would be borne by the organisers, who have also provided the tournament jerseys. Other participating teams include Maharashtra, Kerala, Odisha, Haryana and Delhi. "We aren't really thinking about winning or losing this time. But we want to be more prepared for the next year," said Aadhityanath.

"The team is also finding the harsh winter a bit difficult. But within all the constraints we have been trying our best and we will give it our best," he said.

Law student arrested for injuring man with airgun during practice session

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police arrested a law student for allegedly injuring a businessman during a practice session at his house in Basavanagudi in southern part of the city.

The accused has been identified as Mohammad Afzal, a resident of Basavanagudi. The police have seized three airguns from him, which he had allegedly purchased for shooting practice for sporting events.

The incident occurred on December 10 around 8 p.m., when the victim, Rajagopal D., who runs a restobar in south Bengaluru, was walking with a relative near K.R. Park.

According to the FIR, the victim heard a loud noise and then got hit on his neck. He later filed a complaint stating that he had been shot with an airgun.

Two-pronged approach

A senior police officer overseeing the investigation told *The Hindu* that the probe was challenging due to the size of the pellet, prompting investigators to pursue a two-pronged approach. "We formed a team to identify stores that sell airguns in the city and examined data on people who had purchased such weapons in the locality. At the same time, we conducted ballistic tests to determine the distance and direction from which the pellet originated," the officer said.

The ballistic test results indicated possible points of origin of the pellet, following which the accused was traced after questioning multiple individuals. Preliminary investigation revealed that Afzal has been practising shooting for the past year, as he wanted to take part in shooting sports events. "He claims that he was practising at home and that he missed the target once, which led to the mishap. However, we are verifying his statement," the officer added. Police are yet to identify the specific air gun allegedly used in the incident.

The Basavanagudi police have filed an FIR against Afzal under BNS Section 125 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) and relevant provisions of the Arms Act.

National Lok Adalat reunites couples in Koppal

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Several estranged couples reconciled and decided to resume their married life during the National Lok Adalat in Koppal district on Saturday.

According to officials, 10 matrimonial cases were settled through mediation, with husbands and wives agreeing to resolve their differences. The settlements were achieved following counselling and guidance by mediators, advocates and judges. One of the notable cases involved a couple who had been living separately for the past 10 years but reunited on the advice of their respective lawyers, mediators and the presiding judge. Apart from family disputes, many cases relating to insurance claims, water bills, bank loans, house tax, domestic violence, maintenance, cheque bounce, birth and death registrations, civil and criminal matters, motor vehicle accident claims and MMDR cases were also taken up

In courts across Koppal, Gangavati, Kushtagi, and Yelburga taluks, 6,764 cases were disposed of, out of a total of 8,613 listed on the day. In pre-litigation matters relating to insurance, water charges, and motor accident claims, 72,591 cases were settled out of 79,305 taken up, involving a total settlement amount of ₹13.52 crore. Overall, 79,355 cases were disposed of, out of 87,918 taken up in a single day, with settlements amounting to ₹93.98 crore.

4 missing girls of Bagalkot school found in Vijayapura

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Four girls of class 10 who had gone missing from a residential school in Bagalkot on Friday were traced and rescued from Vijayapura on Saturday. According to a complaint, the girls of Morarji Desai Residential School of Bagalkot went missing from the hostel around 6 p.m. on Friday. They had reportedly jumped over the compound wall, and the incident came to the notice of the hostel staff after four hours. Subsequently, the police were able to trace the girls with the help of their mobile phone location and rescued them on Saturday. It is not yet clear why the girls went to Vijayapura and the police are trying to find out.

Writers and activists slam cancellation of Deepa Bhasthi's lecture at CUK

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

A file photo of the Central University of Karnataka.

A group of writers, civil society activists, and academics have strongly criticised the Central University of Karnataka (CUK), Kalaburagi, for cancelling a proposed special lecture by translator Deepa Bhasthi, calling the move arbitrary and ideologically motivated.

In a media statement released in Kalaburagi on Saturday, the signatories said the university had invited Ms. Bhasthi for a special lecture and completed all preparatory arrangements, only to cancel the programme at the last minute citing "technical reasons". They alleged that the real reason was her translation work involving a Muslim woman writer, which they described as a "hidden" and unjustifiable consideration.

Ms. Bhasthi is an internationally recognised writer and translator whose English translation of Kannada author Banu Mushtaq's short story collection won the Booker Prize, bringing global recognition to Kannada literature. The statement noted that she has been invited to several countries for literary engagements and regularly interacts with young writers and students through workshops and discussions.

The university invited Bhasthi for a special lecture and completed all preparatory arrangements, only to cancel the programme at the last minute citing 'technical reasons'

The signatories said students of the Humanities Department had prepared extensively for the interaction. They alleged that the abrupt cancellation had dampened students' enthusiasm and undermined the academic atmosphere of the institution. Describing the episode as evidence of declining academic standards, the group alleged that communal and sectarian attitudes had begun influencing decisions within the university. They asserted that Ms. Bhasthi was neither a controversial figure nor affiliated with any ideological organisation, and accused authorities of yielding to "intolerant" and "authoritarian" thinking.

The statement also expressed disappointment over what it termed the silence of the university's academic community in the face of the decision, and demanded that those responsible for, what they described, as the erosion of the university's academic dignity be identified and removed.

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Office of Chief Project Manager,
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A BG-BGE

Caste survey report expected in Jan.

The commission has asked government departments for secondary data to understand adequate representation in government services

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka government is hoping to receive the much-awaited report of the Social and Educational Survey-2025 conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes by January 2026.

According to the government sources, the commission is yet to get secondary data from certain government departments, even as other data processing is being undertaken. "We expect that the secondary data will be made available by departments that have so far not complied with the Commission's request by the end of December. We are hoping to receive the report from the Commission by January end," sources said, adding that the compilation of data would not take much time.

According to the government sources, the commission is yet to get secondary data from certain government departments, even as other data processing is being undertaken. FILE PHOTO

Earlier deadline
The commission headed by Madhusudan Naik had earlier been tasked with submitting the report by December 2025. After completing the door-to-door survey by October 31 and online window closing on November 10, about 6.15 crore of the estimated 6.85 crore population in Karnataka was covered in the survey which commenced of September 22.

Meanwhile, the commission has asked government departments for secondary data to understand adequate representation in government services, sources said. Adequate representation is mandated by Article 16(4), which is derived from secondary data and backwardness under Article 15(4) through data compilation from the survey. Incidentally, the previous commission had not considered adequate representation and relied heavily on backwardness.

Sources said that since the court is seized of the matter, utmost care is being taken by the commission in preparation of the report and recommendations.

After facing resistance from dominant Vokkaliga and Veerashaiava-Lingayat communities over the 2015 survey conducted by H. Kantharaj Commission, the report of which was submitted by K. Jayaprakash Hegde Commission in 2024, the State government junked the report on the grounds that the data was old, and tasked the current commission to submit its report by December.

₹240 crore spent so far
Meanwhile, the State government has said that ₹240.72 crore has been spent so far of the ₹348.36 crore allocated to the survey. The government has released ₹212.27 crore towards payment of honorarium to the enumerators across the State. More than 1.5 lakh enumerator had taken part in the survey.

In a written reply by the Backward Classes Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi in the Legislative Assembly to a question from BJP member V. Sunil Kumar, the Minister said that the process of preparing the report is under way.

Not a 'census'
The Minister said that there is no provision for the State government to conduct a "caste census" in the Constitution. He said that the Social and Educational Survey is being conducted as per the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission Act, 1995, to understand the socio-educational condition and problems of the people in Karnataka. "The survey would help in redrawing the Backward Classes list either to remove communities that do not qualify to be in the list or add any communities to the list".

'Traveller Nooks' in Hampi set to be ready by March 2026

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- **Placement** Along key tourist trails
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Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

New "Traveller Nooks" aimed at improving visitor experience at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi are expected to be ready by March 2026.

Growing tourism
The initiative was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2024 to provide essential amenities and information support to the growing number of tourists visiting the heritage town.

Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat confirmed the completion timeline during the Winter Session of the Rajya Sabha, while responding to a question raised by member Narayana Koragappa.

"Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned the project 'Setting up of Traveller Nooks at Hampi' for the cost of ₹25.64 crore under its Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme to develop tourist amenities. As per the sanction order issued by the Ministry of Tourism in respect of this project, the State government has designated Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Ltd. (KTIL) as the State Implementing Agency for the scheme," Mr. Shekhawat stated.

Mr. Shekhawat added that the State government has been asked to complete the project before March 2026.

Amenities
According to officials in the Karnataka Tourism Department, this is the second Swadesh Darshan 2.0 project sanctioned for the State, following a similar initiative in Mysuru.

"The Hampi project will utilise repurposed shipping containers to create modular structures offering a wide range of public amenities," an official told *The Hindu*.

The Traveller Nooks are designed to address critical gaps in visitor facilities by providing drinking water stations, hygienic toilets, ATMs, retail kiosks, and shaded resting areas. "These units will be set up along key tourist trails and will be available in three categories Noble, Royal and Imperial each offering varied levels of service," the official added.

Officials said that the project aims to strengthen tourism infrastructure while ensuring that all interventions remain sensitive to Hampi's archaeological and cultural significance, thereby supporting sustainable tourism development in Hampi.

Aland vote theft case: Subhash Guttedar, son deny charges; call it 'politically motivated'

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

BJP leader and former Aland MLA Subhash Guttedar and his son, Harshanand Guttedar, have rejected the charges levelled against them in the chargesheet filed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing alleged voter fraud during the 2023 Assembly elections in Aland constituency.

Responding to the SIT naming them as prime accused, the father-son duo claimed that the move was politically motivated and timed to suit the Congress party's "vote theft" narrative ahead of the planned agitation in New Delhi on Sunday.

Addressing the media in Kalaburagi on Saturday, the Guttedars said the chargesheet had been filed in haste. "The elections were held in 2023, and B.R. Patil did not raise the issue of vote theft for two-and-a-half years. Only after Rahul Gandhi started speaking about 'vote theft' at the national level did Mr. Patil claim that it had happened in Aland as well," Mr. Subhash Guttedar said.

He said he had already been cleared by courts in earlier cases where serious allegations had been made against him, and expressed confidence of getting relief in the present case as well. He added that both he and his son had cooperated with the SIT and given statements, clearly stating that they had no role in any alleged voter deletion.

"Deletion of voters is a process governed by rules. Form 7 has to be submitted, Anganwadi workers forward it, and the tahsildar scrutinises it. It is not something that we can do on our own," he said, denying any contact with those who had allegedly applied for voter deletion.

Asked about his next course of action, he said he would challenge the chargesheet legally, and alleged that the move was aimed at preventing him from contesting future elections.

CID inquiry
Echoing his father's views, Harshanand Guttedar said an earlier inquiry by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) had made no headway for nearly two years. The SIT chargesheet followed an investigation into allegations of large-scale deletion and manipulation of voters' names in Aland constituency during the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections.

CM, DKS to participate in 'vote theft' protest in Delhi today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close to 3,000 party workers and 30 legislators from Karnataka are expected to participate in the demonstration

In the midst of ongoing talk on leadership change in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar will participate in the "vote chori" (voter theft) protest in New Delhi on Sunday.

According to official schedules, Mr. Shivakumar travelled to Delhi on Saturday, and Mr. Siddarmaiah would leave for Delhi on Sunday morning. Both leaders are expected to participate in the protest in the national capital against alleged vote theft during the 2024 Parliamentary polls.

The Congress began the protest against the "vote theft" campaign against the Election Commission of India at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on August 8.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who led a protest rally in Bengaluru, would take the lead in Sunday's rally in Delhi. Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy is expected to take a group of loyal legislators to Mr. Shivakumar to Delhi.

Close to 3,000 party workers and 30 legislators from Karnataka are expected to participate in the protest.

Mr. Shivakumar, who is also the KPCC chief, said Mr. Gandhi started the fight against vote theft in Karnataka. "We had exposed voter data theft back in the 2023 Legislative Assembly elections and lodged complaints with the Election Commission," he said.

Speaking on the vote theft case in the Aland constituency ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections, which has now been chargesheeted by the SIT, he said MLAs will raise this in the Assembly session on Monday. "This is not just the voice of Karnataka but of the entire country".

Horatti will continue if he comes to our side, says CM in lighter vein

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The grand and warm felicitation accorded to Chairman of Karnataka Legislative Council Basavraj Horatti on his completion of 45 years as a member of the Legislative Council indicated the likelihood of the ruling party trying to eventually get its own member to the coveted post.

While recalling his long association with Mr. Basavaraj Horatti and showering praises on him, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah did not hesitate to indicate that Mr. Horatti was in the chair because Congress did not have the requisite numbers in the Legislative Council at the moment.

'My friend'
"He is my friend, but politics is different. As a political opponent, I have tried to defeat him, but could not. Individually I want him to win, but politically I will try to defeat him in the election," he said recalling earlier elections.

In a response to Union Minister Pralhad Joshi's remark that he (Mr. Horatti) would continue as chairman during Mr. Siddaramaiah's tenure, the Chief Minister said that Mr. Horatti had continued because they did not have the numbers in the Council at this point.

"After the forthcoming Council elections, I believe we will have the majority," he said.

In a lighter vein, he continued, "As of now, he has won the election contesting on the BJP ticket. But if he comes to our side, he may continue".

The Chief Minister's remark has further confirmed the increasing demand within Congress on having its own candidate as the chairman, although Mr. Horatti shares a good rapport with leaders of all political parties.

The numbers
In the 75-member Legislative Council, the strength of Congress is currently 37. The opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) have 29 and 7 members, respectively.

There is one independent legislator Lakhan Jarkiholi and Mr. Horatti also has his vote.

Carnatic vocal concert today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Gayana Samaja will organise a Carnatic vocal concert by U.S.-based musician Pranav Kikkeri on Sunday.

The concert will be held on the Gayana Samaja on premises on Krishna Rajendra Road. The performance will begin at 5.30 p.m.

Kikkeri will be accompanied by Varalakshmi R. on the violin, Chaluvaraju C. on ghatam, and Gurumurthy N. on tabla.

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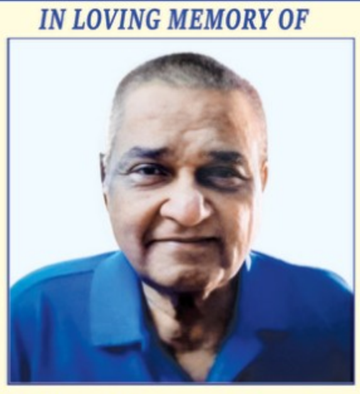

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Anti-incumbency hits Left in Kerala

LDF faced setbacks in Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulam and Malappuram, amid consolidation of anti-Left votes; in Chengannur and Mavelikkara in Alappuzha, the front was pushed to third position; however, it performed reasonably well in rural areas and some municipalities in the south

NEWS ANALYSIS

S. Anandan
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The writing on the wall is clear for the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF), which is in its second term in the State Assembly and has tasted back-to-back wins in the local body elections of 2015 and 2020: it is going to face strong headwinds as it gears up for the Assembly polls three months down the line. There's a subterranean wave of anti-incumbency sweeping the State.

But there is more to the win posted by the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) than meets the eye. The rout of the Left is more pronounced and decisive in Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulam and Malappuram districts – old citadels of the UDF, where a consolidation of anti-Left votes seems to have taken place. Across the State, urban voters in municipalities and Corporations turned their back on the Left, favouring the UDF, and in some cases, the National Democratic Alliance led by the BJP. The CPI(M) will have to rack its brains over the fact that similar to the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, where it ceded ground to the BJP, the Left Front finished way off the mark in many of its traditional strongholds, such as the Kollam Corporation. In municipalities such as Chengannur and Mavelikkara in Alappuzha, the alliance faced the ignominy of being pushed to the third position. The Left's polemic against an understanding between the Congress and its UDF ally Indian Union Muslim League and radical elements – read Welfare Party of India – seems to have backfired, causing a consolidation in favour of the UDF in the northern districts.

Nor has the Left been able to check the continuing erosion of traditional Hindu votes from its kitty.

A pollster points out that all the frenzy drummed up over the Ayyappa Sangamam, before the Sabarimala gold misappropriation case turned the tables against it, was wasted rhetoric. However, it can take solace in the fact that for a formation that's been in power for a decade, the front has done reasonably well in rural areas and some municipalities in the south. While it lost the Thrissur Corporation, its voter base remained intact in the local bodies across Thrissur, where the BJP's overtures to the Christian voters hardly found takers. There was no Suresh Gopi factor, either. In central Kerala and the hill districts, a consolidation of Christian votes may have occurred in favour of the UDF except in isolated pockets like Poonjar Thekkekara which sided with the NDA.

UDF supporters celebrate their candidates' victory in the local body polls, in Kochi on Saturday. H. VIBHU

Kerala is fed up of UDF, LDF: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP said here on Saturday that the result of the local body elections in Kerala, particularly the party's victory in Thiruvananthapuram, is an "epoch-making change". Congratulating party workers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the mandate secured by the BJP-led NDA in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation is a "watershed moment" in Kerala's politics. "Kerala is fed up of UDF and LDF," he said.

Laughable spin: Cong. Responding to the BJP, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said the BJP's "media spin" projecting a "surge" in the local body elections is laughable. "NDA has zero district panchayats, zero block panchayats, two Municipalities, and is projecting one Corporation as a 'breakthrough'," he said.

District panchayat results come as a shock, wake-up call

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The people's mandate in the keenly fought district panchayat elections of 2025 in Kerala has turned out to be a clear wake-up call for the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) and the ruling CPI (M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) ahead of the Assembly polls next year. Results in the district panchayat polls are believed to be indicative of the way the political wind is blowing in the State.

The results of 14 district panchayats in Kerala gave reasons to cheer for the Opposition UDF, but came as a shock to the LDF. Both the fronts won seven district panchayats each (as of 7.30 p.m. on Saturday). The LDF won 11 district panchayats in 2020.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which won three seats the district panchayat in 2020 (two seats by the BJP in Kasaragod), could win only one seat this time. Twenty20, the Kitex Group-backed political outfit in Ernakulam, which grabbed headlines in the 2020 elections by winning four grama panchayats and two district panchayat divisions, also failed to retain its district panchayat divisions this time. The drubbing faced by the LDF in Malappuram was the worst, with the UDF sweeping all the 33 seats in the Malappuram district panchayat.

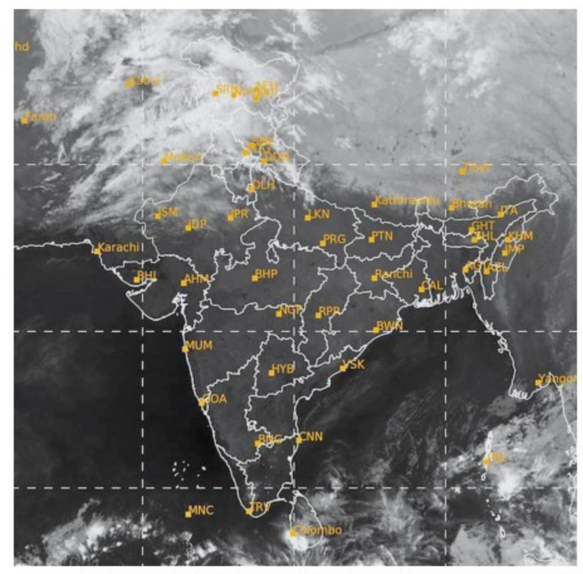
Minority votes

The results also shed light on the changing community considerations and the social engineering effected by major parties. For instance, the district panchayats where the LDF suffered the worst defeat had a sizeable population of minorities. Political commentators feel the verdict also signals the realignment of minority votes in favour of the UDF in at least some pockets.

Political commentator N.M. Pearson told *The Hindu* that the district panchayat results cannot be considered an indicator of the Assembly polls. A comparison of the present election mandate with the 2010 results will be more appropriate, as the verdicts were similar, he said. The UDF had then won eight district panchayats and more grama panchayats (540 out of 978), block panchayats, and municipalities than the LDF. However, in the Assembly election, the UDF could gain only a slender majority, he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Thunderstorm with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Telangana and Karnataka. Dense fog likely at isolated pockets over Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.4	14.2	Kozhikode	—	33.8	22.7
Ahmedabad	—	30.7	14.0	Kurnool	—	31.6	15.1
Aizawl	—	26.3	9.9	Lucknow	—	25.2	10.5
Allahabad	—	24.4	9.8	Madurai	—	31.1	22.6
Bengaluru	—	29.2	14.7	Mangaluru	—	32.8	19.6
Bhopal	—	27.5	6.4	Mumbai	—	33.3	15.6
Bhubaneswar	—	28.8	12.6	Mysuru	—	29.0	15.4
Chandigarh	—	21.6	8.5	New Delhi	—	25.5	8.0
Chennai	—	29.6	20.5	Patna	—	25.0	13.5
Coimbatore	—	30.8	19.6	Port Blair	25	27.0	22.9
Dehradun	—	23.4	8.8	Puducherry	—	28.1	19.6
Gangtok	—	18.6	8.7	Pune	—	31.7	13.3
Goa	—	33.8	18.5	Raipur	—	29.0	12.7
Guwahati	—	26.5	11.1	Ranchi	—	23.6	8.4
Hubballi	—	29.0	13.0	Shillong	—	20.1	9.2
Hyderabad	—	29.8	11.0	Shimla	—	20.8	8.4
Imphal	—	24.3	12.2	Srinagar	—	7.7	-2.9
Jaipur	—	27.5	11.9	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.1	23.4
Kochi	—	31.4	23.8	Tiruchi	—	29.5	21.6
Kohima	—	15.5	6.8	Vijayawada	—	30.2	17.0
Kolkata	—	26.7	14.8	Visakhapatnam	—	28.8	18.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.15	..65	.13	...145	...152	
Bengaluru	...8	..21	.31	...128	...174	
Chennai	.13	5	.43	...168	...117	
Delhi	.22	147	111	...490	...458	
Hyderabad	.23	..16	.28	...250	...129	
Kolkata	.10	111	.14	...253	...199	
Lucknow	.12	..57	.19	...338	...264	
Mumbai	.31	118	.51	...142	...126	
Pune	..—	..34	.51	...307	...288	
Visakhapatnam	.40	106	.13	...193	...220	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 455 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Peace on borders cannot be taken for granted: CDS

Siddharth Kumar Singh
HYDERABAD

The intensity of hostilities has ebbed in recent days but Operation Sindoor continues, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan said, underlining that the armed forces remain fully prepared and operationally engaged to deal with evolving security challenges.

'Deliberate response'

Speaking at the Combined Graduation Parade of 216 course at the Air Force Academy, Dundigal, on Saturday in Hyderabad, Gen. Chauhan said India's response had been deliberate, calibrated and firmly rooted in national objectives.

"The armed forces continue to operate with clarity of purpose and a clear understanding of the strategic end state," Gen. Chauhan said.

He cautioned that peace along the frontiers cannot be taken for granted and requires continuous vigilance, preparedness and close political-military synergy.

The Chief of Defence Staff reviewed the parade and conferred the President's Commission on 244 flight cadets.

The graduating cohort included 29 women from the flying and ground duty branches of the Indian Air Force, who were formally inducted into service.

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CIDCO
WE MAKE CITIES

NOTICE INVITING BID

Development of Land for International Educity Part - 2 under Centre of Excellence at Kundevahal, Navi Mumbai

CIDCO of Maharashtra Limited through the process of E-tendering invites **"ON LINE" Item Rate Bid** in two bid system (Part-I Technical Bid & Part-II commercial bid) from Quarry / Crusher Owners / Contractors from the experienced potential bidders fulfilling the mandatory eligibility criteria and scoring minimum qualifying marks of 75 in the Technical bid evaluation, comprising of total 100 marks as per Annexure-I, who have completed work of similar nature like extraction of rock by controlled blasting or wedging & chiselling or by line drilling in MMR region for the work mentioned below:

1. Name of Work : Development of Land for International Educity Part - 2 under Centre of Excellence at Kundevahal, Navi Mumbai 2. C. A. No.: 08/CIDCO/EE(CP)/2025-26 **3. Quantity of rock to be extracted from designated area :** 205,96,000.00 M.T. **4. Contractor's offer :** Contractor has to quote his premium for the extraction of rock / earth being contractor's property **5. E.M.D. :** ₹ 4,06,00,000.00 **6. Completion Period :** 487 (Four Hundred Eighty Seven) Days (including Monsoon) **7. Tender Processing Fee :** ₹ 59,000.00 including 18% GST. (Non-Refundable)

Bid Document along with Bidding Programme will be available on the website **https://mahatenders.gov.in** from 15/12/2025 at 17.01 hrs.

Superintending Engineer (P & K)

CIN - U99999 MH 1970 SGC-014574
www.cidco.maharashtra.gov.in
CIDCO/PR/446/2025-26

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE NO. 32/2025 DATE : 08/12/2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time: 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty.	Tender Due on
1	38251027C	Panel Patch Plate of Size 1500 X 500 X 5 mm Specn.	4014 Nos.	24.12.2025
2	38251026C	Panel patch plate of size 1500 x 850 x 5 mm Specn.	1577 Nos.	24.12.2025
3	38251023C	Panel patch plate of size 1500 x 1200 x 5 mm Specn.	1309 Nos.	24.12.2025
4	45255013	Traction Alternator complete type for DEMU DPC 1400HP	2 Nos.	26.12.2025
5	29255004	IGBT based 3-phase drive propulsion equipments	1 Set	19.01.2026
6	30251087	Control discharge Flush Valve with measured quantity discharge	12392 Nos.	21.01.2026
7	38251176A	Knuckle for HT Box N	3224 Nos.	28.01.2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/718/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Sri.Venkata Reddy S/o Sri.Venkata Narayana Reddy** is intending to jointly Develop the schedule property mentioned hereunder belonging to **Kum.Kavitha D/o Sri. Chikkagopalappa** ; person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site. **No.15,** Katha No.33/2, Converted Survey No.33/2, bearing Order No. ALN.SR [P]:131;2002-03, dated 17-12-2002, Situated at **K. Narayanapura Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** Bangalore Measuring East to West **30 Feet** and North to South **39 Feet,** in all total measuring **1170 Square feet.,** and bounded on the

East By : Site No.16, West By : Site No.14, North By: Dhayanand Reddy's property, South By: Road.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 8951856652, 9845846428
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
M.I & G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR

No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-1,4/4702/TND/2025-26/3400 Date: 11.12.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

4702-SCP Works :- Total 8 Works/Package Works, **Amount put to Tender Rs.54.00 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are Three(3) Months including monsoon.**

4702-TSP Works :- Total 11 Works/Package Works, **Amount put to Tender Rs.68.40 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are Three(3) Months including monsoon.**

4702-Consultency Works :- Total 5 Works/Package Works, **Amount put to Tender Rs.5.79 Lakhs, Tender Period for the above works are One (1) Months including monsoon.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors from **12.12.2025.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **17-30 hrs.** on **20.12.2025.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17-30 hrs.** on **19.12.2025.** Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MI & GWDD Division, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/537/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಐಎ/2025–26

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Sri.Venkata Reddy S/o Sri.Venkata Narayana Reddy** is intending to jointly Develop the schedule property mentioned hereunder belonging to **Smt.Puspha W/o K.Prabhakar** ; person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **Site No.14,** Khatha No.33/2, Converted Survey No.33/2,bearing order No.ALN.SR(P): 131:2002-03, dated 17-12-2002, Situated at; **K. NARAYANAPURA Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** and measuring East to West **30 (Thirty) feet** and North to South **39 (Thirty Nine)** feet, in total **1170 square feet** and Bounded on the

East by : Site No. 15, West by : Private Property, North by : Dhayanand Reddy's Property, South by : Road

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 8951856652, 9845846428
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

पत्र सं-WB-74-W-O/Works/NIT/X दिनांक: 11.12.2025 मंडल रेल प्रबन्धक, इंजीनियरिंग, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवम उनकी ओर से ई–निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमो के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्रो में निविदा निम्न कार्यो के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है– **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2025–26** : 143OF2025-26 **कार्य का नाम व स्थान** : Improvement of staff quarters in D.S. Colony, Medical colony in the section of ADEN/HQ/JU. **अनुमानित लागत रूपये** : 26818915.42 **बयाने की राशि रूपये** : 284100.00 **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2025–26** : 144of2025-26 **कार्य का नाम व स्थान** : Improvement to staff quarters in Old Loco Colony, BGKT colony in the section of ADEN/HQ/JU. **अनुमानित लागत रूपये** : 26749650.12 **बयाने की राशि रूपये** : 283800.00 **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2025–26** : 145OF2025-26 **कार्य का नाम व स्थान** : Construction of New staff Quarters in D.S. colony and Old loco colony under ADEN/HQ. **अनुमानित लागत रूपये** : 43698692.57 **बयाने की राशि रूपये** : 368500.00 **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2025–26** : 146OF2025-26 **कार्य का नाम व स्थान** : Provision of S&T Rooms for Electronic interlocking at PLCJ station in RKB-JSM Section. **अनुमानित लागत रूपये** : 5632535.17 **बयाने की राशि रूपये** : 112700.00 **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2025–26** : 147OF2025-26 **कार्य का नाम व स्थान** : Construction of Road under Bridge subway (1x6.0x4.0 m) in lieu of manned LC No. 96 (Km 446/4-5), LC No. 99 (Km 450/7-8) & LC No. 112 (Km 463/6-7) on RTGH-DNA Section. **अनुमानित लागत रूपये** : 104025360.37 **बयाने की राशि रूपये** : 670100.00 **ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 2025–26** : 148OF2025-26 **कार्य का नाम व स्थान** : Construction of Road under Bridge subway in lieu of manned LC No. 113 (Km 464/5-6), LC No. 115 (Km 465/9-10) & LC No. 116 (Km 466/3-4) on RTGH-DNA Section. **अनुमानित लागत रूपये** : 103471337.01 **बयाने की राशि रूपये** : 667400.00 निविदा सूचना सं. 143OF2025-26, 144of2025-26, 145OF2025-26, 146OF2025-26, 147OF2025-26 & 148OF2025-26 निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 25.12.2025, 26.12.2025, 01.01.2026, 02.01.2026, 02.01.2026 & 05.01.2026 को 15.00 बजे तक) वेबसाइट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई–निविदा देखी व भरी जा सकती है – www.ireps.gov.in 1602-CR/25

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NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT)
(Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tender for the following work through KPP Portal:

Tender Enquiry No. BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT731 - Conversion of overhead line into underground cable (UG Cable) in the existing 2 No's of 11 KV urban feeders to provide uninterrupted power supply, enhancing safety & avoid accidents in Tiptur Town, Tiptur Sub-division, Tiptur Division, BESCOM on Percentage Quoting Basis.

Availability of Bid documents : 18.12.2025 @ 15:00 Hrs onwards. **Last date for bid submission :** 19.01.2026 @ 15:00 Hrs. **Opening of Technical Bids :** 20.01.2026 @ 15:15 Hrs. **Pre-Bid meeting :** 30.12.2025 @ 11:00 Hrs. **Last date for submission of Queries:** 29.12.2025 before 17:00 Hrs. **Venue :** Conference hall, 3rd Floor, BELAKU BHAVANA, Corporate office, BESCOM, K. R Circle, Bangalore- 560 001.

The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the e-procurement portal from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** E-procurement Help Desk: Phone No: **+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777** E-mail: **support@eprochelpdesk.com** Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on e-procurement portal. Bidders can take the assistance from the e-procurement during working hours.

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A BG-BGE

From Page One

Fans run riot in stadium as VIPs block Messi view

Mr. Messi is on his G.O.A.T India tour 2025, and arrived in Kolkata in the early hours of Saturday. There were elaborate arrangements to welcome him, and a 70-foot-long statue of the legend has been erected on the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass in the city.

Ms. Banerjee apologised over the incident and ordered an enquiry. "I am deeply disturbed and shocked by the mismanagement witnessed today at Salt Lake Stadium. I was on my way to the stadium to attend the event along with thousands of sports lovers and fans who had gathered to catch a glimpse of their favourite footballer, Lionel Messi," the CM said in a post on X. "I sincerely apologise to Lionel Messi, as well as to all sports lovers and his fans, for the unfortunate incident," she added. She said that an enquiry committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Justice (Retd.) Ashim Kumar Ray, with the Chief Secretary and the Additional Chief Secretary, Home and Hill Affairs Department, as members.

Organiser arrested

The main organiser of Mr. Messi's G.O.A.T India tour, Satadru Dutta, was arrested by the police. West Bengal DGP Rajeev Kumar said that the organiser has given in writing that he will compensate the fans.

"No reports of injuries to fans... Traffic has been normalised. The incident has been localised to Salt Lake Stadium," said Jawed Shamim, ADG Law and Order.

UDF sweeps Kerala polls, LDF faces setback

The UDF also bagged 505 of the 941 grama panchayats, 79 of the 152 block panchayats, seven out of the 14 district panchayats and 54 of the 86 municipalities, according to the updates released by the State Election Commission (SEC) at 7.30 p.m.

The LDF won 340 grama panchayats, 63 block panchayats, seven district panchayats and 28 municipalities.

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, where it was the major Opposition during 2020-25, in addition to 26 grama panchayats and two municipalities.

The results in 75 local bodies were tied. This list included 64 grama panchayats, 10 block panchayats and one municipality. Other parties and Independents won in six grama panchayats and one municipality.

At the time of filing this report, the UDF held 9,015 of the 17,337 grama panchayat wards, while the LDF's numbers dipped to 6,559. NDA won 1,444 grama panchayat wards, while 1,273 were won by others/Independents. In the 2,267 block panchayat wards, 1,241 were won by the UDF, 923 by the LDF, 54 by the NDA-BJP and 49 by others/Independents. Of the 346 district panchayat wards, UDF claimed 171, the LDF 109, NDA-BJP won one ward and others/Independents, one.

In the 3,240 municipal wards, UDF won 1,458, LDF 1,100, the NDA-BJP 324 and others/independents 323. In the 421 Corporation wards, 187 were won by the UDF, 125 by the LDF and 93 by the BJP. 15 went to other parties/Independents.

While the UDF wave was felt across local bodies, the BJP visibly improved its positions in the urban local bodies, emerging as the top player in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation and as the main opposition party in several municipalities. The LDF, which had had a clear upper hand in the previous elections held in 2020, has lost significant ground across local bodies this time.

The newly elected member will take the oath on December 21.

Second airport: Tenders invited for feasibility study

The Minister noted that the feasibility report must also include details of the estimated cost of developing the proposed airport, the extent of land required, and approvals to be obtained from various authorities, including the Ministry of Defence and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The report will also assess the impact of a new airport on industries, tourism and public mobility in the region.

Connectivity

The consultancy firm will further examine existing connectivity to the proposed sites and the infrastructure that would need to be developed after the airport is constructed. In addition, cargo handling and passenger services, along with their economic viability, will be studied. Based on a comprehensive assessment of all three locations, the firm will submit its recommendation on the most suitable site for the second airport, he explained in the release.

By 2023

Mr. Patil said Kempegowda International Airport currently ranks second in the country in terms of passenger density. By 2033, the State will require another airport, and efforts have therefore been initiated well in advance with a forward-looking approach.

At present, New Delhi and Mumbai ahave two airports each. Once the feasibility report is received, the government will decide on the next course of action, the Minister stated.

Governor and BJP blame Bengal govt. for chaos at Messi event

Bose terms it a 'black day' for sports-loving community; BJP seeks the resignation of Mamata and arrest of Sports Minister; Opposition leader says fans were fleeced while Ministers crowded around Messi; Trinamool govt. distances itself from fiasco

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Opposition leaders and the West Bengal Governor blamed the Trinamool Congress and its State machinery for the chaos at football legend Lionel Messi's event at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on Saturday.

They raised questions about the government's handling of the situation, after spectators went on a rampage at the stadium.

"While the organisers of the event are to be blamed squarely for the situation that unfolded, it is also the police that has failed the government, the people and the Chief Minister who is also the Home Minister," the Lok Bhavan social media page of Governor C.V. Ananda Bose posted on X after the event. He also stated that this incident will be considered a "black day" for the sports-loving community of Kolkata.

The BJP sought the resignation of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for the chaos. Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, party MP Sukanta Majumdar, and its senior spokesperson Amit Malviya came down heavily on the government, the police, and the Trinamool Congress Ministers for the mismanagement.

Unruly crowd: Angry fans occupy the field after failing to get a glimpse of Argentine football star Lionel Messi at the Salt Lake Stadium, in Kolkata on Saturday. DEBASISH BHADURI

Mr. Adhikari posted pictures of Trinamool Ministers with Messi and questioned why they were allowed to meet the football legend when fans who paid thousands of rupees could not see their icon. He alleged that the programme turned into "Sports Minister Aroop Biswas and [Minister] Sujit Basu's business", claiming spectators were fleeced while Ministers and leaders crowded around Messi.

Opposition leaders demand arrest of organiser and full refund for fans who came to see Messi

Mr. Majumdar said the Trinamool leaders hijacked the event and did not give football fans their rightful chance to see the legend. "The unruly and barbaric conduct of Trinamool workers – coupled with staggering administrative mismanagement – led to such a situation that he was forced to turn back," he added.

The senior BJP leaders also sought the arrest of Ministers Aroop Biswas and Sujit Bose.

Call for full refund

Both the Governor and Opposition leaders sought the arrest of the organiser, Shatadru Dutta, and a refund to all fans who paid hefty amounts to see Messi at the stadium. The organiser was arrested by the police in the evening .

Later in the day, Mr. Adhikari wrote to the Governor and asked him to start an independent "judicial inquiry into the grave abuse of power, administrative lawlessness and mass public harassment," at the stadium. He also alleged that the chaos and violence were not accidental, and were rather enabled by the government and its machinery.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) leaders also criticised the government. "The Salt Lake Stadium has hosted many football legends, even Pele. But we have never seen this kind of chaos," senior CPI(M) leader Sujan Chakraborty said. He also added that the adverse turn of events was shameful.

However, Trinamool spokesperson Kunal Ghosh blamed the chaos solely on the organisers and their mismanagement. The government had nothing to do with it, he said. "This is entirely the result of the organisers' gross mismanagement, which is a private entity. It has no connection to the State government. This has no relation to the Trinamool," Mr. Ghosh said. He further added that Mr. Biswas was part of the event in his capacity as the Sports Minister and not as a private participant.

The Chief Minister later apologised to Messi and sports lovers for the chaos. A probe has been ordered.

Maharashtra govt. slams Minister's statement

The Hindu Bureau
NASHIK

The Maharashtra government is unhappy with Union Minister Jitendra Singh's recent statement about Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Maharashtra Minister Ashish Shelar told the Legislative Council on Saturday.

He was responding to a notice issued by Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC Anil Parab on the issue. He also said that the Chief Minister had written to the Union government about it.

Mr. Singh had recently said that he was happy that the name of the IIT was IIT-Bombay, and not IIT-Mumbai. The statement had caused a stir in the State.

"It needs to be clearly stated that the Maharashtra government is unhappy with this statement. The Chief Minister has already written a letter to the Union Minister. So, the government's position is not just that it is unhappy, but that the displeasure has been conveyed as well," Mr. Shelar told the House.

"Mumbai is a matter of identity and pride for the Marathi *manoos*. Balasaheb Thackeray had done a lot for the issue of renaming Bombay as Mumbai, so had [BJP leader] Ram Naik. So I had asked the government for its position on the Union Minister's statement," Mr. Parab said.

Banned insurgent group claims drone attack on Assam Rifles camp

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Official says low-tech equipment was used; four of the injured personnel are in a stable condition

In one of the first incidents of its kind, the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA), a banned insurgent group in the northeast, has released a video claiming drone-attack on the temporary base of an Assam Rifles (AR) unit along the Manipur-Myanmar border.

The 6.56-minute video released on December 11 shows a drone dropping bomb on an AR camp in Tengnoupal district of Manipur. The incident is said to have occurred on November 28 in which four AR personnel were injured.

After the incident, the Army had said in a statement that a "patrolling party of Assam Rifles was fired upon by terrorists" in Tengnoupal district along the India-Myanmar border in the early hours on November 28 . "The fire was immediately retaliated with control and caution, keeping in view the civilian safety. The operations are currently underway, with additional troops being deployed into the area," the statement said.

PLA is a Meitei insurgent group, which operates from Myanmar. The outfit banned since 1979 espouses the secession of Manipur from India.

A senior government official said that the banned group is trying to regain its foothold in the region with the help of such propaganda videos.

After the September 19 ambush in Nambol, when two AR personnel were killed, security forces launched intensive operation against the group and arrested several cadres. The Nambol ambush has also been claimed by the PLA in the video.

"After the September 19 incident, several combing operations were carried out and a large number of cadres have been arrested. This is an attempt to instil fear in the people and extort money," said the official.

Nambol ambush was the first targeted attack against the central security forces deployed in Manipur since the May 2023 ethnic violence. Manipur was placed under President's Rule on February 13.

The attack occurred on National Highway-2 which Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to reach Churachandpur district in the hills from the Imphal airport on September 13, his first visit since the outbreak of the ethnic violence.

The drone used in the November 28 attack was rudimentary and locally assembled, the official said. "The drone appears to be commercially procured and the ammunition is also not of a high grade. It was a low-tech equipment and could not inflict any damage. All the four personnel are stable and they received only shrapnel injuries," said the official.

PLA said in a statement is supported by other banned groups such as NSCN (K-YA) and ULFA (I) and it carried out several attacks against the AR from September 19 to December 10.

MEIL, which is building a 850-MW hydel project over the Chenab, has said it is facing political interference. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Firm threatens to pull out of power project in J&K

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd. (MEIL), which is constructing the 850-MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, on Saturday said it may pull out of the project if the administration failed to stop threats and interference from local people and politicians.

"There is a lot of pressure on our workers. The way locals and politicians act is undemocratic and should not happen. If the outsiders don't allow us to work, we may have to leave the project. It will cause a lot of losses as we have paid bank guarantees, invested in machines and material. But we cannot meet the impossible demands like hiring additional staff," Harpal Singh, chief operating officer of the dam project from Hyderabad-based MEIL, said.

Mr. Singh warned that the prevailing situation had the potential to compromise the safety and quality of the project. "Unless we have a good work atmosphere, the safety and quality of the project could be compromised," he said.

The Ratle project is a run of the river scheme located on the Chenab at Drabshalla village in Kishtwar. The project was approved in 2021 at a total cost of ₹5,281.94 crore, with the scheduled commissioning date set for May 2026.

The trouble for the company began on December 4, when the head of its human resources team was allegedly attacked while on the way to the residential quarters. "The incident spread fear among the workers," Mr. Singh said.

The company alleged that it was under pressure from local politicians to hire more local workers for the project. "I want to underline to locals, the district and State administration, and the Union Ministry of Power that the company has no vacancy," Mr. Singh said.

The project currently employs 1,434 workers. "From Kishtwar, we have 900 workers. From nearby Doda and Ramban, we have 220 and 24 workers respectively. Around 215 workers are from outside as the project requires specialised labour too," Mr. Singh said.

The officer said the project had been marred by blackmail from politicians, attacks, and false court cases. "Many have been recruited because of local interference. We are making a 133 metre high dam and underground electricity generation of 850 MW. It is a key project," he added.

By 2030, Bastar will be the most developed tribal region: Amit Shah

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that India stood on the verge of eliminating Maoism by March 2026 and that the government had now set its sights on making Chhattisgarh's Bastar the most developed tribal division in the country by 2030.

"Our resolve is to free the entire land of India, and especially the Bastar region, from Maoism. But we won't stop there. I declare before all of you today that Kanker, Kondagaon, Bastar, Sukma, Bijapur, Dantewada, and Narayanpur – these seven districts of the Bastar division – will become the most developed tribal districts in the country by December 2030," he said during his speech at the concluding ceremony of Bastar Olympics.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah being felicitated during the closing ceremony of the Bastar Olympics on Saturday. ANI

Bastar Olympics is an annual mega sports event in Jagdalpur in which participants from all seven districts of the region compete in various sports events. This year it also saw participation from more than 700 surrendered Maoists.

Asserting that peace only can pave the road for development, he laid out the contours of the 2030 vision.

"...every household will have access to basic amenities, every village will be connected by roads, every village will have electricity, banking facilities will be available within a 5-km radius, and most importantly, both the Central and State governments of the BJP will work to establish a network of Primary Health Centers and Community Health Centers," he said.

"We will also establish new industries, higher education institutions, top-notch sports schools, and as many hospitals as needed in Bastar ," he added.

Brinda Karat writes to President on lynching case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Senior Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Brinda Karat has written to President Droupadi Murmu seeking her intervention in the 2015 mob lynching case of Mohammad Akhlaq, alleging that the Uttar Pradesh government, with the Governor's consent, is attempting to withdraw the prosecution in a manner that "subverts the entire judicial process".

In her letter, Ms. Karat said the U.P. Governor had granted written permission to the State government to withdraw the case even though the trial had progressed and the testimonies of the key witnesses had been recorded.

"I regret that I am forced to write to you on this matter, but since the Governor has been appointed by you and is answerable to you, I felt it is in the interests of justice to inform you of the facts and to request your urgent intervention," the CPI(M) leader wrote.

EC appoints roll observers to monitor SIR in eight States

Five lakh booth-level officers will share the list of omitted voters with more than 12 lakh agents of political parties; special roll observers to meet parties, officials, and ensure transparent revision

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In order to ensure that draft electoral rolls published during the ongoing special intensive revision of voters' lists are largely error-free, the Election Commission has appointed special roll observers (SROs) in eight States.

The commission has also asked Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union Territories to share the list of absent, shifted/dead and duplicate (ASD) voters with booth-level agents of political parties prior to the publication of the draft rolls.

Nearly five lakh booth-level officers (BLO) of all the 12 States and Union Territories, where the SIR is currently under way, are holding booth-wise meetings with the more than 12 lakh BLAs of political parties to hand over the ASD lists to them.

West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agarwal, Special Roll Observer Subrata Gupta, and others at a meeting in Kolkata. ANI

The BLO marks voters "absent, shifted or dead/duplicate" after three or more visits to their houses.

This is to ascertain the exact status of each such elector on the ASD list, so that any error can be rectified before the publication of the draft electoral rolls itself, a senior EC official said.

Even after publication of the draft electoral roll, the ASD list will be made available on the websites of the respective District Election Officers/District Magistrates (district-wise) as well as on the website of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO).

This will also be available in an EPIC-searchable mode.

Apart from this, the special roll observers (SROs) appointed in eight States with a large voter base – West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan – have already begun their work.

They are expected to be present two days a week in these States until the final electoral rolls are published in February 2026. They will conduct meetings with the State-level and district-level leadership of all the national and State political parties.

The SROs will also attend meetings with the CEOs and DEOs of the States either physically or virtually to ensure that the entire process is completed in a smooth, transparent and participatory manner.

The draft lists for the 12 States and Union Territories are scheduled to be published between December 16 and 31.

Modi govt. is trying to take credit for MGNREGS: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday targeted the Narendra Modi government over the proposed renaming of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), claiming that the Prime Minister is now seeking to take credit for the "revolutionary scheme" that he had called a "monument of failure".

"It's yet another way of erasing Mahatma Gandhi from our national psyche, especially from the villages where he said India's soul resides. This move is nothing but a cosmetic change to paper over the deliberate neglect being meted out to this scheme. MGNREGA workers have been demanding higher wages, but the Centre has been reducing allocated funds for the scheme year after year," Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said in a post on X.

Jairam Ramesh

Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh said that the Modi government is a "master" at renaming schemes and asked what was wrong with the current name.

"They hate Pandit Nehru but it seems they also hate Mahatma Gandhi. What's wrong with the name Mahatma Gandhi, why rename the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to Pujya Bapu Employment Guarantee Scheme?" Mr. Ramesh asked. On Friday, the Union Cabinet is said to have approved a Bill to rename the MGNREGA and increase the number of work days to 125 days.

Cong. to hold rally in Delhi over 'vote theft' today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress will intensify its campaign against alleged "vote *chori*" with a rally at Ramlila Maidan on Sunday, seeking to hold the government and the Election Commission accountable for what it claims to be "collusion to manipulate elections".

The entire top leadership, including Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi, is expected to address the gathering. Senior leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, K.C. Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh and Sachin Pilot, will also participate.

Mr. Venugopal, general secretary (organisation), said the party has collected around 5.5 crore signatures opposing alleged electoral irregularities. He added that the rally is intended to build public momentum and that the party plans to submit a memorandum along with the signatures to the President.

Congress takes a swipe at PM Modi over India being left out of U.S.-led 'Pax Silica' initiative

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi over India's exclusion from a new U.S.-led strategic initiative aimed at securing global silicon and high-technology supply chains, saying it would have been in the country's interest to be part of the grouping.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said India's absence from the initiative, called Pax Silica, reflects a "sharp downturn" in ties between Mr. Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump

Jairam Ramesh says India's absence from the initiative reflects a 'sharp downturn' in Modi-Trump ties

in recent months.

In a post on X, Mr. Ramesh said reports suggest that the U.S. has excluded India from a nine-nation initiative designed to reduce Chinese dominance in high-tech supply chains. He noted that the name Pax Silica is intended as a counter to Pax Sinica. According to the Congress, the countries included so far are the U.S., Japan, South Korea, Singapore, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Israel, the UAE and Australia.

"Given the sharp downturn in Trump-Modi ties since May 10, 2025, it is perhaps not very surprising that India has not been included. Undoubtedly, it would have been to our advantage if we had been part of this group," Mr. Ramesh said, adding that the news came soon after the Prime Minister highlighted his conversation with his "once-upon-a-time good friend and a recipient of many hugs in Ahmedabad, Houston, and Washington DC ".

Union Minister of State Pankaj Chaudhary set to be announced as U.P. BJP president

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The Union Minister of State for Finance and seven-time Lok Sabha member from Maharajganj, Pankaj Chaudhary, is set to be announced as the Uttar Pradesh unit president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Mr. Chaudhary filed his nomination papers at the BJP party office in Lucknow on Saturday in the presence of U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other senior leaders. He is expected to be declared the State president on Sunday as he was the only person to submit the nomination for the post.

Pankaj Chaudhary with Bhupendra Chaudhary and Yogi Adityanath after filing nomination on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Chaudhary filed his papers, and his name was proposed by 10 senior party leaders, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and both Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak.

"Participated in the nomination filing ceremony of Shri Pankaj Chaudhary *ji* for the post of Uttar Pradesh BJP president at the State BJP office in Lucknow," Mr. Adityanath wrote on X.

Mr. Chaudhary, a seven-time MP, graduated from Gorakhpur University and started his political career at the local level when he served as a councillor of the Gorakhpur Municipal Corporation in 1989. In 1991, he was elected MP for the first time from the Maharajganj Lok Sabha constituency on BJP ticket.

He won the seat again in 1996, 1998, 2004, 2014, 2019 and 2024 representing the party. He was appointed Union Minister of State for Finance in the second Modi Cabinet.

Caste angle, OBC push

Mr. Chaudhary belongs to the Kurmi caste, coming under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category. Among the numerically significant OBC voters constituting over 35% electorate in the State, Kurmis are the second largest group after Yadavs. Kurmis are roughly 4.7% of the U.P. population, according to the 1931 caste census, the last time a caste-centred count was done in the State. Through Mr. Chaudhary, the BJP is eyeing to consolidate the Kurmi and larger OBC vote bank for the 2027 Assembly polls.

The seven-time MP's elevation comes at a time when the Opposition Samajwadi Party has given important roles such as national general secretary to its Kurmi leaders – Ramprasad Chaudhary and Lalji Verma.

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044 Email: ce2wssd@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice No. 54 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of **"Appointment of a Contractor for Sewerage arrangement of 4 Cluster and 4 Villages in Taluka Shirur under the jurisdiction of the PMRDA region."**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: www.mahatenders.gov.in from 24/12/2025 at 11.30 am. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 15/01/2026 upto 14.00 pm. The changes if any can be available on www.mahatenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044 Email: ce2wssd@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice No. 53 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of **"Appointment of a Contractor for Sewerage arrangement for Urban growth Centers under Khed Taluka including 3 cluster and 7 Villages under the jurisdiction of the PMRDA region."**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: www.mahatenders.gov.in from 24/12/2025 at 11.30 am. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 15/01/2026 upto 14.00 pm. The changes if any can be available on www.mahatenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044 Email: ce2wssd@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice No. 42 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of **"Appointment of a Contractor for the Indrayani river Pollution Abatement Project under the jurisdiction of the PMRDA region."**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: www.mahatenders.gov.in from 24/12/2025 at 11.00 am. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 15/01/2026 upto 16.30 Pm. The changes if any can be available on www.mahatenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
HEAD OFFICE, CMRL OFFICE CAMPUS, POONAMALLEE HIGH ROAD, KOYAMBEDU, CHENNAI - 600 107. Ph.No. (044) 26426773. Email id.: tncsc.tn@nic.in
CIN:U15137TN1972SGC006157

E-TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. QC2/075931/2025 **Dated: 13.12.2025**

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites online electronic tenders for **"FIXING RATE CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF LOW DENSITY BLACK POLYETHYLENE COVERS OF SIZE 9.8 X 6.4 X 5.2 METERS WITH 250 MICRON THICKNESS FOR THE KMS 2025-2026"**

Complete E-Tender document can be viewed, downloaded and uploaded through **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** from **15.12.2025 to 22.12.2025.**

The bidders have to participate in online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-III.

Last Date for Online Submission : 22.12.2025 upto 11.00 AM
Tender Opening Date & Time : 23.12.2025 at 11.30 AM

DIPR/6623/Tender/2025 **Managing Director**

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune

E-Tender Notice No. 50 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites proposals through e-tendering document ABCD classification, document archival and retrieval system software, Meta Data Entry and Document Management Project Execution wit Manpower and Hardware Resources in Building Permission Department P.M.R.D.A Akurdi, Dist-Pune.

The Tender document for this work can be downloaded from the website https://mahatenders.gov.in/ from 15th December, 2025 at 11.00 Hrs. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 23rd December, 2025 upto 17.00 Hrs. The changes if any can be available on https://mahatenders.gov.in/

This Tender Notice can also be seen on PMRDA website.

Sd/-
Director
Building Permission and Planning Dept.
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044 Email: ce2wssd@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice No. 52 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of **"Appointment of a Contractor for Sewerage arrangement of 5 Cluster and 8 Villages in Taluka Haweli under the jurisdiction of the PMRDA region."**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: www.mahatenders.gov.in from 24/12/2025 at 11.30 am. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 15/01/2026 upto 14.00 pm. The changes if any can be available on www.mahatenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

பாரதிதாசன் பல்கலைக்கழகம்
BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY
Palkalaiperur, Tiruchirappalli - 620 024, Tamil Nadu, India
[Accredited with A+ Grade by NAAC in the Third Cycle & 36th Rank among the Indian Universities in NIRF – 2025]

Applications for the following positions are invited from eligible candidates

Sl.No.	Advertisement No.	Name of the Post	Scale of Pay	Vacancy
1.	B5/ 2509/2025 Dated:14 -12 -2025	REGISTRAR	Academic Level: 14 with rationalized entry pay of Rs.1,44,200/-	01 (One)
2.	B5/ 2510/2025 Dated:14 -12 -2025	CONTROLLER OF EXAMINATIONS		01 (One)
3.	B5/4892/2025 Dated:14 -12 -2025	DIRECTOR [CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION (CDOE)]		01 (One)

Refer our website, at **www.bdu.ac.in,** for details. The last date for receipt of the filled-in application along with its enclosures is **12-01-2026 by 5.45 p.m.** The University reserves the right to fill up or not to fill-up the vacancies notified.

Place : Tiruchirappalli
Date : 14-12-2025 DIPR/1455/DISPLAY/2025

REGISTRAR [FAC]

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान तिरुवनंतपुरम
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
MARUTHAMALA P.O., VITHURA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Tel: 0471-2778044, 8031

NON-TEACHING STAFF RECRUITMENT 2025

IISER(T)/HR/001/2025 14th December 2025

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Thiruvananthapuram invites applications from eligible Indian nationals for various non-teaching posts.

The last date of submission of applications online is by 17.00 hrs on 05.01.2026.

For detailed advertisement, please log on to:
http://www.iisertvm.ac.in/openings/active_openings

04/2025-26 dt 14.12.2025 **REGISTRAR**

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044 Email: ce2wssd@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice No. 51 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of " **Appointment of a Contractor for Sewerage arrangement of 3 Cluster and 6 Villages in Taluka Mulshi under the jurisdiction of the PMRDA region."**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: www.mahatenders.gov.in from 24/12/2025 at 11.30 am. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 15/01/2026 upto 14.00 pm. The changes if any can be available on www.mahatenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority,Pune

E-Tender Notice No. 24 for FY 2025-2026 (2nd Call)

PMRDA invites proposals through e-tendering for Bhor Taluka Road works in PMRDA Jurisdiction.

The Tender document for each work can be downloaded from the website:www.mahatenders.gov.in from 13 December, 2025 at 17.00 Hrs. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 20 December, 2025 up to 17.00 Hrs. The changes if any can be available on www.mahatenders.gov.in.

This Tender Notice can also be seen on PMRDA website.

sd-
Chief Engineer
Engineering Division 1
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
New Administrative Building, Near Akurdi Railway Station, Akurdi, Pune - 411044 Email: ce2wssd@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice No. 55 for FY 2025-26

PMRDA invites Bids through e-tendering for Work of **"Appointment of a Contractor for Sewerage arrangement of 1 cluster and 2 villages in Taluka Maval under the jurisdiction of the PMRDA region."**

The Tender document can be downloaded from the website: www.mahatenders.gov.in from 24/12/2025 at 11.30 am. onwards. Last date for submission of the proposal is 15/01/2026 upto 14.00 pm. The changes if any can be available on www.mahatenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
(Engineering Division-2)
Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune.

INBRIEF

Arunachal accident: 11 more bodies retrieved from site

Eleven more bodies were retrieved on Saturday from the deep gorge in Arunachal Pradesh's Anjaw district, where a mini-truck on which 22 labourers from Assam were travelling fell, an official said. With this, 17 bodies have been recovered from the accident site, Anjaw's Deputy Commissioner Milo Kojin said. He said three more bodies will be brought out on Sunday. The rescue operation, being carried out by a joint NDRF and Army team, resumed at 6 a.m., but was suspended around 4 p.m. due to low visibility. Officials said the operation will resume on Sunday morning. PTI

Retired IAF officer arrested in Assam for Pakistan links

The police in north-central Assam's Sonitpur district arrested a retired Indian Air Force (IAF) officer for his alleged links with Pakistani operatives, while their counterparts in Arunachal Pradesh caught four Kashmiri men in an alleged espionage case. Sonitpur's Superintendent of Police (SP) Barun Purkayastha said, "We kept him under technical surveillance after receiving intel about him. We took time to collect evidence and picked him up eventually." An investigation revealed that the retired IAF officer had shared sensitive information with Pakistani operatives. The police seized his laptop and mobile phone and sent them for a forensic examination.

Kin of Pakistani fishermen arrested by India seek help

The families of 11 Pakistani fishermen, including two teenage boys, who have been arrested by Indian maritime authorities this week, have appealed for their release, pleading they are just poor fishermen. The families urged the Pakistan government to get them released through diplomatic channels. Ahmed Brohi, the father of one of the arrested fishermen, Ghulam Mustafa, said they all lived close to each other in Ibrahim Hyderi, a fishing village in west Karachi. "We earn our livelihood through fishing. I urge the government to do something because we have already suffered a lot in the past," he said on Saturday. PTI

Plan to import refurbished medical devices opposed

Indian manufacturers of medical devices have written to the Centre urging it to reconsider the move to import refurbished and reconditioned medical devices, stating that it raises concerns for India's healthcare ecosystem, which has invested years in indigenous research under the "Make in India" vision. "Despite the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation's clear ban on the import of refurbished medical equipment, and with the matter currently sub judice before the courts, such approvals risk undermining regulatory integrity and creating an uneven playing field for domestic innovators," stakeholders said in a statement.

SUDOKU

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No.SS6730 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	1	8	4	9	2	7	5	6
4	2	9	7	5	6	3	1	8
7	6	5	3	1	8	9	2	4
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5	9	3	1	4	7	8	6	2
8	7	2	9	6	5	1	4	3
2	8	4	5	7	9	6	3	1
6	3	7	8	2	1	4	9	5
9	5	1	6	3	4	2	8	7

Thalassaemia patients hail new transfusion Bill

Those supporting patient welfare say proposed law, with a central authority, uniform standards and stricter oversight of blood centres, could ensure more access to quality blood in the country

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Thalassaemia patients have welcomed the introduction of the National Blood Transfusion Bill, 2025, in Parliament on Friday.

The proposed legislation seeks to create a dedicated National Blood Transfusion Authority, set uniform national standards for the collection, testing, processing, storage, distribution, issuance and transfusion of blood and blood components, mandate registration of all blood centres, promote voluntary blood donation, and introduce strict penalties for unsafe or non-compliant practices.

The Thalassemia Patients Advocacy Group says the provisions address long-standing concerns. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

"These provisions directly address long standing concerns faced by patients, caregivers, and clinicians due to fragmented regulation and inconsistent quality," the Thalassemia Patients Advocacy Group (TPAG) said.

It added that the reform

The former ICMR chief says the Bill is an evidence-based framework to improve care

offers hope for a safer, more accountable and more efficient blood ecosystem. N.K. Ganguly, former Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research, said, "Strengthening the governance of blood transfusion services is essential for ensuring safety and public trust."

The proposed Bill provides a science-based framework to streamline standards and improve patient outcomes, he added.

Anubha Taneja Mukherjee, member secretary, TPAG, said, "For thousands of thalassaemia patients, blood is not a treatment. It is a lifeline. The Bill recognise the urgency of building a strong and unified national framework to ensure safe and equitable access to quality blood."

Maharashtra panel seeks five-day jail term for journalists for 'defaming' MLC

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Legislative Council's Special Privileges Committee has recommended a five-day jail sentence for four journalists for allegedly "tarnishing" the image of Amol Mitkari, MLC, by running "false and fabricated" news stories about him. One editor was spared from the punishment after he apologised.

Presenting his report on the matter to the Council on Saturday, committee chairman Prasad Lad said that the journalists, associated with a YouTube channel named *Satya Ladha*, had aired false news against Nationalist Congress Party leader Mr. Mitkari.

"The Akola-based journalists Ganesh Sonawane, Harshada Sonawane, Amol Nandurkar, Ankush Gawande, and editor Satish Deshmukh were responsible for spreading false news and defaming his public and political image. So the panel has recommended five days' imprisonment for all five media persons," Mr. Lad informed the House.

However, after the inquiry, Mr. Deshmukh submitted a written apology to Mr. Mitkari, which the panel has also accepted. "So, we have proposed that no action be taken against him," Mr. Lad said.

The panel has proposed that the remaining four journalists be sentenced to five days' imprisonment during the ongoing winter session of the State legislature. "In case it is not possible, then the decision is to be implemented in the next session," Mr. Lad added.

The report came after Mr. Mitkari filed a breach of privilege motion against the five journalists.

No opt-out option in APAAR ID consent forms: Odisha HC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Orissa High Court has ruled that consent forms for the Education Ministry's APAAR ID scheme, which issues unique identities linked to Aadhaar to each student, do not provide parents with an option to opt out of giving consent.

A Bench of Justice Sashikanta Mishra has directed the government to consider amending the consent forms so that such an option is made available to parents.

The High Court was hearing a petition filed by an elementary school student from Bhubaneswar and his parents, who said that the consent forms distributed by the school under the APAAR ID scheme did not provide an option to decline sharing Aadhaar details at the outset.

The petitioners noted that a clause in the consent form mentioned that consent could be withdrawn at any time. However, they argued that the clause, by its structure, required consent to first be given and only then withdrawn.

The form said consent could be withdrawn, but only after it was first given.

Privacy concern

In its December 12 order, the High Court said, "The withdrawal of consent as per the last paragraph of the consent form cannot be treated as giving an effective right to the parent to protect his privacy because by such time the consent would already have been given."

While noting the submissions of the Union Education Ministry that consent under the APAAR ID scheme was "entirely voluntary", the court observed that the consent forms had "not been worded strictly in consonance with the avowed objective of making the scheme voluntary".

"In other words, the model consent form does not appear to have been happily worded in this respect at all," the court ruled. "If it is intended to be a voluntary act, appropriate provisions clearly specifying such fact ought to have been incorporated in the form by providing option to the parents to refuse to submit their consent or to opt out of it entirely," it added.

The Bench noted that the petitioners had shared a model consent form incorporating an option for parents to refuse consent at the beginning, and said State authorities should consider this sample while amending the consent forms.

The High Court said it would take up the matter again after two months, when "necessary orders" would be passed.

Delhi HC rejects work from home petition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court dismissed a petition by Shubham Verma, a Scientist-E at an autonomous telecom technology centre under the Department of Telecommunications, who sought permission to work from home citing health concerns due to severe air pollution.

He told the court that his office did not follow the CAQM's directive asking offices in Delhi to allow work from home for at least 50% staff.

Gulmarg gets Asia's longest ski drag lift and hall in big boost to Kashmir's winter tourism

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Kashmir's winter tourism received a shot in the arm on Saturday, with the inauguration of Asia's longest ski drag lift and rotating conference hall at an altitude of 4,390 metres, to match with world-class facilities for skiers in Gulmarg.

"The newly inaugurated ski drag lift and training facilities would give a major boost to winter sports and professional skiing. The revolving conference hall at Apharwat would significantly enhance visitor experience. Our vision is to make Gulmarg a global hub for winter sports while ensuring conservation of its fragile ecology and natural beauty," Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said.

Asia's longest ski drag lift launched by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Kongdori, Gulmarg on Saturday. PTI

Asia's longest ski drag lift, measuring 726 metres, is located at Kongdoori and has come up at a cost of ₹3.65 crore. At Apharwat, the rotating conference hall cost ₹86 lakh. Mr. Abdullah inaugurated tourism infrastructure projects estimated at over ₹17 crore at Gulmarg and its adjoining areas, "to push J&K's position as a premier global winter tourism destination".

Sustained investment

The Gulmarg meadow, surrounded by mountains on three sides, was a major tourist attraction in 2024. It hosted over 7.68 lakh visitors last year and was the main venue for the fourth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games.

Mr. Abdullah laid the foundation stone for fencing of the Gulmarg golf course, a project esimated at ₹4.77 crore, "aimed at protecting and enhancing one of the region's iconic tourism assets".

"Gulmarg remains the crown jewel of J&K's tourism landscape and that sustained investment in modern, high-quality infrastructure is essential to unlocking its full potential. These initiatives are not just infrastructure additions but strategic investments that will create year-round tourism opportunities, generate employment for local youth, and elevate Gulmarg to international standards," Mr. Abdullah said.

New oral drugs expand options for gonorrhoea treatment

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved two new oral medicines to treat gonorrhoea, a common sexually transmitted infection, prone to resistance against drugs. Indian pharma major Dr. Reddy's is taking steps to obtain market authorisation for one of these drugs in Thailand and South Africa, and its unit, Aurigene Pharmaceutical Services, will manufacture the drug.

The two drugs, Nuzolvence (zoliflodacin), which comprises granules that dissolve in water, and Blujepa (gepotidacin) oral tablets, add a critical element to the armamentarium in a world where the tools to treat gonorrhoea are fast shrinking. "These approvals mark a significant milestone for treatment options for patients with uncomplicated urogenital gonorrhea," said Adam Sherwat, director, Office of Infectious Diseases, FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, in a release. The FDA approval for Nuzolvence was granted to Entasis Therapeutics, and the approval for Blujepa was granted to GSK.

While Blujepa was developed by GSK, Nuzolvence was a project initiated by AstraZeneca, but dropped, and later taken up by Entasis, which partnered with the nonprofit Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP), beginning trials in 2019.

The World Health Organization (WHO) maintains a list of critical pathogens, with a focus on antibiotic-resistant bacteria; the 2024 list includes the gonorrhoea-causing bacteria *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, classified as "high priority". The reason is that it is prone to evasive drug action and is growing increasingly resistant to the one drug/drug combination that is being used globally as treatment.

A study nurse dispenses investigational zoliflodacin to a participant during the Phase 3 clinical trial in Thailand. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gonorrhoea is spread through sexual contact and usually affects the throat, rectum, genitals, and eyes, and can lead to painful urination, bleeding and discharge in the genital area. It often goes untreated because several people who have contracted the infection, particularly women, show no symptoms, but it can potentially cause infertility or complications if not treated.

In 2020, the WHO estimated 82.4 million new infections among adults aged 15 to 49. One reason this might be increasing, explains Pierre Damar, R&D Drug and treatment project leader at GARDP, is because of the revolution in the field of treatment for HIV/AIDS.

"The younger generations have stopped using condoms because the fear of HIV is not there anymore. They are using Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), which is a medicine people at risk for HIV take to prevent getting HIV from sex or injecting drug use. However, PrEP cannot protect you against contracting STIs. It has already been shown that the cases of gonorrhoea are increasing. There were almost no new cases during the pandemic lockdown, but [it] seems to have exploded soon after."

Dr. Daram says zoliflodacin remains the only drug to treat gonorrhoea (Blujepa is also used to treat urinary tract infections) as a key part of GARDP's STI strategy. "Limiting its clinical use in this way should support good stewardship of the drug and help to delay the emergence of resistance, prolonging the effectiveness of this new drug."

The drug, which is given orally in a single dose, and, therefore, convenient for the patient, will first be available in Thailand and in South Africa, where clinical trials were conducted.

GARDP will also look at partnerships, including with governments, that will enable easy access to the drug in these countries, Dr. Daram adds.

INBRIEF

Swiggy raises ₹10,000 cr. via QIP; domestic funds lead round

Food and grocery delivery company Swiggy has raised ₹10,000 crore through a qualified institutional placement (QIP), the company said in a regulatory filing on Friday, bolstering its balance-sheet amid intensifying competition in quick commerce. The Bengaluru-based firm launched the QIP earlier this week and allotted shares at ₹375 apiece, that is, at 11% discount to Friday's closing price of ₹416.70 on the BSE. The issue price also represented a near-4% discount to the floor price of ₹390.51 set by the company.

Shiprocket eyes ₹2,342 cr. via IPO, files updated draft papers

Temasek-backed e-commerce enablement platform Shiprocket has filed updated draft papers with SEBI to raise a little over ₹2,342 crore through an initial public offering (IPO). The IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to ₹1,100 crore along with an offer for sale of ₹1,242.3 crore by the selling shareholders. As part of the OFS, Lightrock, Tribe Capital, Bertelsmann, Arvind Ltd., Gautam Kapoor, Saahil Goel, and Vishesh Khurana will be diluting their stakes. PTI

SAIL posts 14% YoY growth in sales in April-November

State-owned steel maker SAIL on Saturday said it recorded a 14% year-on-year growth in sales at 12.7 million tonnes (MT) in April-November 2025, amid "price pressures and demand volatility". The Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) had posted sales of 11.1 MT in the corresponding period last year. During the eight-month period, the company said retail sales were also strong. It was at 0.97 MT, up 13% from 0.86 MT in April-November 2024, supported by ongoing nationwide brand promotion campaigns. PTI

Textile industry calls for removal of import duty on cotton

Removal of import duty will help MSMEs get raw material at affordable prices and reduce the divergence between domestic and global prices

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Non-starter: The ₹5,900 crore Cotton Mission announced by the Centre in the Union Budget is yet to take off. FILE PHOTO

The Committee on Cotton Production and Consumption recently estimated cotton production this year to be 292.15 lakh bales (of 170 kg each), which will be nearly five lakh bales less than the previous season that ended on September 30, 2025.

However, the demand is expected to be 337 lakh bales compared with 340 lakh bales last season. "When the availability is less than the production, why should there be restrictions on imports," said K. Selvaraju, secretary general of the Southern India Mills Association.

The government extended the import duty exemption on cotton in August this year till December 31, 2025.

The industry is demanding removal of the import duty so that the micro, small and medium-scale enterprises get raw material at affordable prices.

The average cotton productivity in India is 440 kg a hectare as against 1,900 to 2,000 kg a hectare in Brazil. The ₹5,900 crore Cotton Mission announced by the Centre in the Union Budget is yet to take off. India needs to focus on seed quality and productivity so that cotton production does not decline.

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry chairman Ashwin Chandran said that at a time when the ongoing uncertainty on the U.S. tariff remains a major concern for the textile and apparel sector, and with cotton production likely to decline and fibre quality expected to deteriorate due to unseasonal rains, removal of import duty will reduce the divergence between domestic and global prices.

Atul Ganatra, president of the Cotton Association of India, said the CCI buys cotton at MSP and sells it after four months at ₹65,000 a candy. Brazil cotton is available at a lower price even with the import duty. If the CCI sells the cotton it buys immediately, cotton imports will decline, he added.

₹1.50 lakh-crore worth road projects approved for Maharashtra: Gadkari

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday pointed out that road projects worth ₹1.50 lakh crore had been approved for Maharashtra for 2026, and work for most of the projects would begin in "the next three months".

Mr. Gadkari informed that projects worth ₹27,000 crore had been approved for Maharashtra State Infrastructure Development Corporation, which included a new Pune-Sambhajinagar expressway for ₹16,318 crore.

'We want BRIDGE to be the Davos for media'

Kunal Shankar
ABU DHABI

Dr. Jamal Mohammed Obaid Al Kaabi

As the United Arab Emirates accelerates its diversification away from oil, media, culture and technology are emerging as a strategic frontier. That ambition was on display when Abu Dhabi hosted the BRIDGE Summit between December 8 and 10, positioning it as the "largest debut media event in the world".

Held by the private BRIDGE Alliance, but under the aegis of the Government of the UAE, the three-day summit brought together voices from journalism, cinema, music, technology and communications to deliberate on issues ranging from misinformation and trust deficits to the growing influence of artificial intelligence on global media ecosystems.

"We realised there was no Davos for media," said H.E. Dr. Jamal Mohammed Obaid Al Kaabi, Director-General, UAE National Media Office and Vice-Chairman, BRIDGE Alliance, speaking to *The Hindu* during the event. "There are global platforms for economics, energy, defence and technology, but media – despite facing similar challenges everywhere – did not have a space where the world could come together and talk."

Dr. Al Kaabi said the idea for BRIDGE emerged from the growing fragmentation of media conversations even as the pressures confronting the sector have become increasingly shared. "Misinformation is disturbing societies, fact-checking has become a daily struggle, and people are unsure where the truth lies," he said. "These are not problems of one country or one newsroom."

What began as a summit, soon expanded in ambition. "We realised content today is not only journalism," Dr. Al Kaabi said. "It is film, music, gaming, storytelling across platforms. If you want to talk seriously about the future of media, you cannot limit that conversation to newsrooms alone."

That reckoning led to the birth of BRIDGE Alliance as a firm rather than a government entity. "From day one, we were clear this should not function as a government initiative. It is a platform for the world's media – a home for media. People should feel they can step in, participate and belong, he said.

Abu Dhabi will remain the permanent home of the annual summit, but BRIDGE will host "pop-up" engagements across regions including the U.S., Europe, Asia and Africa. The idea, Dr. Al Kaabi said, is to ensure continuity. "Challenges don't disappear because you hosted a conference. The conversation has to continue through the year."

The governance of BRIDGE reflects this global ambition. Its board includes Princess Lamia Al Saud (a member of the Saudi royal family and a UN ambassador focusing on women's empowerment), Jessica Sibley (CEO, *Time*), Macky Sall (former President, Senegal) and Richard Attias (former Executive Producer, World Economic Forum). "Media today cannot be shaped by one profession or one geography," Dr. Al Kaabi said. "We wanted people who understand culture, power, storytelling and global dialogue from different perspectives."

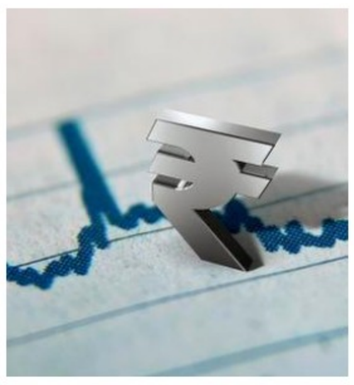
Personalities from the film world such as Idris Elba and Priyanka Chopra, Reddit co-founder and spouse of tennis player Serena Williams, Alexis Ohanian, Time magazine's Executive Editor Nikhil Kumar, and several executives from platforms such as Meta and LinkedIn participated in the event. Conspicuously absent, however, were media brands such as the BBC, *The New York Times*, *The Hindu* and *Al Jazeera* – the Qatar-based broadcaster that was at the centre of past regional diplomatic tensions during the 2017 Gulf crisis, even though ties between the UAE and Qatar have since been restored.

BRIDGE also reflects a deeper ambition: reclaiming ownership over narratives and expanding the UAE's media economy and soft power. "When people come here, interact, create and go back with experiences, that shapes how countries are perceived," Dr. Al Kaabi said.

(The writer was in Abu Dhabi at the invitation of BRIDGE Alliance)

Foreign investors exit from Indian equity, debt hits ₹12,941 crore

Anupama Ghosh
MUMBAI



The weekly outflow comprised ₹6,135.33 crore from equities and ₹6,891.47 crore from debt.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) withdrew ₹12,941.34 crore from the Indian market during the week ending December 12, with selling pressure intensifying across the equity and debt segments as global headwinds and domestic currency weakness weighed on investor sentiment.

The weekly outflow comprised ₹6,135.33 crore from equities and ₹6,891.47 crore from debt, while hybrid instruments saw marginal inflows of ₹166.58 crore, according to National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL) data.

The selling was most pronounced on December 10, when FPIs pulled out ₹5,386.69 crore in a single day, marking the sharpest daily outflow of the week.

"Foreign Institutional Investors remained net sellers in the Indian equity markets, withdrawing $681.24 million through the week," said Himanshu Srivastava, Principal, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India.

"The sustained outflow reflected a cautious global risk environment driven by elevated U.S. interest rates, tighter liquidity conditions, and a continued preference for safer or higher-yielding developed-market assets."

Net outflows

On a daily basis, FPIs recorded net outflows of ₹1,590.69 crore on December 8, ₹1,397.90 crore on December 9, ₹5,386.69 crore on December 10, ₹1,369.92 crore on December 11, and ₹3,196.14 crore on December 12. The cumulative equity outflow across the five trading days stood at ₹6,135.33 crore, with the stock exchange segment bearing the brunt at ₹8,701.42 crore in net sales, partially offset by ₹2,566.09 crore in-flows through the primary market and other routes.

The debt market witnessed persistent selling across all categories, with the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) recording the highest outflows of ₹7,487.52 crore for the week. The Debt-General Limit saw net outflows of ₹530.52 crore, while the Debt-VRR segment recorded net outflows of ₹175.38 crore. Mutual fund schemes also experienced withdrawals of ₹81.46 crore during the week.

"The sharp depreciation of the rupee, which has weakened to record levels in recent weeks, further dampened foreign investor sentiment as currency losses eroded dollar-based returns," Mr. Srivastava added.

"Additionally, rich domestic equity valuations made India less attractive relative to other emerging markets that currently offer better value."

The rupee traded in the range of ₹89.88 to ₹90.37 per U.S. dollar during the week, with currency weakness adding to FPI concerns.

The conversion rate stood at ₹90.37/dollar on December 12, reflecting continued pressure on the domestic currency.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

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Inviting applications for the post of Chief Executive Officer, NABH

Established as a National Body for accreditation and quality promotion through a Cabinet decision, Quality Council of India (QCI) is an autonomous body that plays a pivotal role at the national level in propagating, adoption and adherence to quality standards in all sectors across manufacturing, trade and services. The Department for Promotion of industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India is the nodal point for QCI. India's national accreditation system under the Quality Council of India (QCI) has been ranked 5th in the Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) amongst 185 countries.

QCI invites online applications for one (01) position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH). The details are available at: **https://qcin.org/careers.**

Note: -

i. Mode of submission: Online. Only online applications will be accepted. Last date of submission of online applications is: 15.01.2026, 05:30 pm.
ii. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.
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(ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ / ପୋଷ୍ଟ- ଆମ୍ବୁପୁଆ, ଆମ୍ବଭଲ ଭବନ ନିକଟରେ, , ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର - ୭୬୦୦୧୧, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ, ଓଡିଶା

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po :- Ambapua, Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com; Tel No.:-0680-2404287)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement E-Mail/ E-despatch
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/57-2025-26/BPR

Identification No.	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 57 - 2025-26/ BPR	Road Works under MMSY-IMPROVEMENT TO EXISTING RD ROADS	02 Nos	From Rs.349.32 Lakhs to Rs.368.46 Lakhs	"A" Class as applicable	Period of Completion as provided as per Col.No.5 of Annexure of NIT

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur.	Online Tender / 57-2025-26/BPR	12.12.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	26.12.2025 upto 5.30 P.M.

(i) EMD / Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.
(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.
Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: - www.tendersodisha.gov.in

O-1720: Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur
OIPR-25071/11/0171/2526

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THE HINDU REWIND 2025 TRIVIA QUIZ
DAY 09

1. In a daring daylight heist in October 2025, thieves used a basket lift to enter which world-famous museum and steal priceless Napoleonic jewels just meters from the Mona Lisa?
2. Which word was chosen by the Cambridge Dictionary as its Word of the Year 2025, reflecting the growing trend of one-sided emotional bonds that people form with celebrities, influencers, or AI chatbots?
3. Which Indian state became the first in the country to integrate the 'predicted possibility of TB deaths among patients' into its TB-elimination programme?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit bit.ly/Rewind2024TriviaQuiz take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Ethiopia
2. Smriti Mandhana
3. Mohanlal

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Aashutosh Kumar Mishra, Patna | 2. Ahaana Paikray, Bhubaneswar | 3. Nilesh Shah, Hubli

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ADMISSION NOTICE FOR Ph.D. PROGRAMMES: 2025-26

Online applications are invited for full-time admission in the Ph.D. programmes (session: 2025-26) on the following subjects:

(1) Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archeology **(2)** Anthropology **(3)** Applied Geology **(4)** Microbiology **(5)** Biotechnology **(6)** Botany **(7)** Business Management **(8)** Chemistry **(9)** Commerce **(10)** Computer Science & Application **(11)** Economics **(12)** Education **(13)** English **(14)** Forensic Science **(15)** Geography **(16)** Hindi **(17)** Law **(18)** Library & Information Science **(19)** Linguistics **(20)** Mathematics **(21)** Music **(22)** Pharmaceutical Science **(23)** Philosophy **(24)** Physics **(25)** Political Science & Public Administration **(26)** Psychology **(27)** Lifelong Education **(28)** Sociology & Social Work **(29)** Urdu **(30)** Yogic Science **(31)** Zoology **(32)** Fine Arts **(33)** Performing Arts (Theatre Arts) **(34)** Environmental Science **(35)** Vedic Studies.

- Admission will be based on marks of UGC/CSIR-NET or equivalent National Level Test, followed by interview.
- Detailed description relating to eligibility criteria, interview and selection procedure are mentioned in Ph.D. Admission Brochure 2025-26, available on the university website: **www.dhsgsu.edu.in**

Commencement of online application/registration date	12.12.2025
Last date of application/registration	26.12.2025

Registrar

How mangroves' cells help plants survive in saltwater

Divya Gandhi

Saltwater would kill most plants, but it cannot fell the ancient mangroves species distinct for their giant stilt roots. So how do they survive on brine? International researchers and authors of a new paper in *Current Biology* have delved into their cells and discovered what makes mangrove shrubs and trees so different from all other terrestrial plants.

The scientists identified cell traits that are critical to tolerating a surge in saltwater as climate change raises sea levels. And this could also help create plants, especially agricultural crops, to survive in salty water.

"This work reveals that just a few simple cell traits are critical to tolerating the extreme conditions experienced by some of the most distinctive and resilient plants in the world," said Adam Roddy, a co-author and assistant professor in New York University's department of environmental studies.

Mangroves have evolved 30 times over the last 200 million years as they adapted to saltwater.

The scientists analysed 34 mangroves species and across 17 plant families and found that, compared to their inland relatives, mangroves do not exhibit smaller or more stomata to enable higher photosynthetic rates. Mangroves however have unusually small leaf epidermal pavement cells and thicker cell walls, which together give them more mechanical strength to tolerate low osmotic potentials.

'Variety of mechanisms'

Different groups of mangroves use a variety of mechanisms. To exclude salt, some species have roots with a waxy layer inside that's able to filter out most of the salt, Dr. Roddy told *The Hindu*. "This requires them to create a lot of tension to essentially 'pull' the water out of solution and into their bodies. Other species will take up a lot of salt, but then they concentrate the saltwater and secrete it out of their leaves through specialised tissues."

Mangroves are special as they're able to tolerate high amounts of salt and live along coasts, also protecting them against erosion, and they provide habitats for both sea animals and birds. Given so much of the world's population lives along coasts, these functions directly benefit humans, Dr. Roddy said.

The study offers strategies to engineer salt-tolerant plants by manipulating cell size and cell wall properties.

"If we want to manipulate plants," Dr. Roddy said, "then focusing on ones of particular economic importance that would also be threatened by increasing salinity would be the way to start."

Ramanujan's old formulae for pi echo in modern cosmology

An IISc team has linked Ramanujan's clever formulae to calculate π to ideas used in modern physics; the work hints that abstract mathematics and theories of boiling fluids or expanding universes could be closely connected

Jacob P Koshy

Earlier this month, IISc professor Aninda Sinha and his former doctoral student Faizan Bhat linked the esoteric mathematics of Srinivasa Ramanujan with the principles underlying the physics of turbulent fluids and the expansion of the universe using the number π (pi).

Their paper appeared in *Physical Review Letters*.

This irrational number, which the Greek mathematician Archimedes discovered 1,500 years ago could be approximated as 22/7, is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. Scientists have developed different ways to compute its value over the years, using different branches of mathematics, although the process is often laborious.

But more than a century ago, Srinivasa Ramanujan, who had at the time yet to be admitted to the pantheon of mathematicians, discovered at least 17 astonishingly fast formulae to calculate 1/π. Each of these used a particular recipe: add the first term, you get a rough value; add a second, it becomes dramatically more accurate; continue a bit more, and the approximation converges very quickly to π.

Some of these formulae were so efficient that they underpin the Chudnovsky algorithm, which scientists have used to compute π to over 200 trillion digits on modern supercomputers.

"We were interested in the maths behind Ramanujan's thinking," Dr. Sinha said over the phone.

The trail began unexpectedly in string theory – one of the grand theories of theoretical physics that attempts to explain how the fundamental constituents of matter, including electrons, neutrinos, quarks, and gravitons, could have arisen as the vibrations of invisible little coils of energy called 'strings'.

Last year, Dr. Sinha and a collaborator were studying certain string-theoretic calculations and realised some of the existing answers in the literature were incomplete or incorrectly quoted.

"In the process of finding new representations of those string answers, we found a new formula for π," he recalled. "In fact, an infinite number of new formulae."

A string, he said, can be thought of like a rubber band: you can stretch it in many ways and its elasticity can take many values.

"If π is somehow hidden in the string answer, it should have an infinite number of different ways of looking at it," Dr. Sinha said. "That is what we found."

"That's what pushed me to go back and look more carefully at Ramanujan's formulae. Once I looked at the modern presentation, something jumped out. Because of my training, I immediately recognised structures I had seen before in conformal field theories."

Conformal field theories (CFT) are the mathematical language of critical phenomena, those special points where systems are on the edge of change.

When water boils at 100°C and room pressure, you can clearly distinguish the liquid and vapour. But at a much higher 374°C and 221 atm of pressure, it reaches a critical point where that distinction vanishes: the fluid becomes superfluid and is neither clearly liquid nor clearly gas, no matter how closely you zoom in.

"At the critical point, you cannot actually say which is liquid and which is vapour," Dr. Sinha said. "That is the point where CFTs enter – they are used to explain what happens in this kind of critical phenomena."

Ramanujan's equations appeared to be analogous to those in certain kinds of CFTs. The mathematical engine he intuitively used to find π, involving modular equations, elliptic integrals and special functions, exactly matched the structure of correlation functions in the CFTs.

As of now, their work doesn't yet settle any grand conjecture in number theory or cosmology. It only remains an intriguing bridge between two distant regions of thought: Ramanujan's intuitive modular equations and modern CFT.

History however is replete with examples of mathematical ideas developed in isolation resonating with the physics of the real world decades later.

"Riemannian geometry (or the geometry of curved spaces) was being developed in the 19th century as pure mathematics," Dr. Sinha said.

"Much later, Einstein's general theory of relativity showed that the geometry of spacetime itself is Riemannian (because of gravity's impact on space-time). Today, we even use it with GPS."

Similarly, Napoleon Bonaparte's mathematical advisor Joseph Fourier developed Fourier transforms as a mathematical tool to analyse heat flow. Today it supports digital image and music compression.

For now, the Ramanujan-CFT connection has already spawned a new line of inquiry in Dr. Sinha's group: the mathematical structure they identified appears again, he said, in models of an expanding universe.

On the mathematical side, the work hints that other transcendental numbers, of which π is one example, might admit similarly efficient representations rooted in physics.

Bridge of wonder

Ramanujan's equations appear to be analogous to those in certain kinds of conformal field theories

- IISc researchers have found similarities between Ramanujan's speedy methods to estimate pi (π) with advanced theories describing critical phenomena
- While reworking string theory problems, they unexpectedly discovered infinitely many new formulae for computing π
- They noticed Ramanujan's mathematics shared the same hidden patterns as equations used to describe turbulent fluids
- The same mathematical pattern also appeared in simple models of an expanding universe, deepening the connection
- Thus far, the work offers a striking bridge between pure number theory and modern physics, rather than solves problems
- Past examples like Riemannian geometry and Fourier transforms show today's abstract maths can transform future technologies

More than a century ago Srinivasa Ramanujan, an accountant in Chennai yet to be admitted to the pantheon of mathematical greats, discovered a set of astonishingly fast-converging formulae to calculate 1/π. ASHLIN (CC BY-SA)

The snail as a model for restoring vision in humans

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

In Hindu mythology, Lord Shiva's third eye is said to open only in moments of great transformation. What if this isn't just a mythic symbol of cosmic vision but also a metaphor for renewal?

Ever wondered if there's a hidden switch that could unlock something just as extraordinary as the ability to regrow our own eyes? A camera-type eye, like that of humans and many other species, has a lens that focuses light onto a retina. Regeneration would be the ability of the eye to regrow itself after being completely removed or damaged. Recent work by Alice Accorsi and Alejandro Sánchez Alvarado's team (*Nature Communications* 16, 2025) has shown how such regeneration of the eye occurs in a golden apple snail. The snail is a mollusc: a backboneless, shell-covered animal that can live equally well in land and water.

This miracle of regeneration isn't magic but beautiful molecular choreography. When the snail loses an eye, thousands of genes flip like switches: first those guiding wound healing, then those for cell growth and division, followed by diverse networks for new retinal cells, photoreceptors, and lenses. Among them, the *PAX6* gene plays a critical role in the early development of the eye. In snails, this process is carefully coordinated by several other genes. These include genes responsible for forming new nerve cells, guiding nerve fibres to their correct targets, and detecting light,

The snail is a mollusc: a backboneless, shell-covered animal that can live equally well in land and water. GETTY IMAGES

each becoming active at the right stage to ensure proper development. We as humans can't do the same yet but decoding these genetic triggers may one day help us awaken our own silent regenerative programs.

Just as snails can regrow their eyes, other animals such as frogs, planaria, and the African spiny mouse also possess strong regenerative powers. In axolotls, a type of salamander, damaged tissue can revert to a flexible stem cell-like state and rebuild bones, muscles, and other body parts. CRISPR is a gene-editing technology that enables us to redesign, remodel, and regenerate the genome structure we desire. At the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute at Hyderabad, scientists have used the CRISPR method to correct genetic eye diseases such as Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA) and Stargardt disease, using zebrafish as the animal model.

Animals to humans

Clinically, early trials have already targeted genetic disorders in humans – such as sickle cell disease; β-thalassemia, a birth-related blood deficiency disorder; and LCA, a type of congenital blindness – using CRISPR editing.

Recently, a first-of-its-kind clinical trial outcome for the treatment of LCA in human patients using CRISPR technology has come from a team at Harvard University (*N Engl J Med* 2024;390:1972-1984), who showed improved vision in people with inherited blindness. These initiatives mark a shift from understanding regeneration in animal models to reactivating repair programs in human cells, establishing a framework for gene-guided regenerative medicine.

These examples remind us that regeneration isn't a rare miracle.

Instead it's an ancient biological program still written into the DNA of many species, and one that science is gradually learning to decode and revive. The new study, on the golden apple snail, has revealed how its genome remembers to rebuild what seems irreparable, and in decoding that memory, science moves closer to restoring human vision: not through divine intervention but through molecular understanding.

The author is thankful to his colleagues Sonali Mohapatra and Dr Vivek Singh for their inputs

SNAPSHOTS

The tree of life is growing faster than ever

How fast is science adding new species to the tree of life? Using databases, researchers traced nearly 2 million living, named species from the mid-1700s and found additions have been accelerating since 2015, with about 17,000 species named in 2020. Animals, arthropods, insects, beetles, and ray-finned fishes have gained roughly a fifth of their current species since 2000. The team tentatively projected that fungi, arachnids, crustaceans, and reptiles may eventually contain up to 4x today's diversity.

Even premodern humans may have lit fires

Researchers excavated a 4-lakh-year-old soil layer containing shattered axes and a patch of reddish sediment in Barnham, England. The sediment had been repeatedly heated and its chemical traces didn't match natural fires. The layer also yielded some iron pyrite, a mineral that can be struck against flint to create sparks and is otherwise very rare in the area. The researchers interpreted all this to mean premodern humans could have lit fires, reshaping their diets and social lives.

Dugongs have been tending to the Persian Gulf

Fossils from Al Maszhabiya in Qatar have revealed that 'sea cow engineering' has shaped the Persian Gulf for over 20 million years. A team studied a dense bed of bones from shallow marine rocks dated to the early Miocene and identified a new, small species of dugongs. The condition of its bones suggested herds repeatedly fed in local seagrass meadows, implying the Gulf was a sea cow habitat across climates, even as the exact species has shifted.

Question Corner

Sudden boil

Why do microwave ovens sometimes overheat water?

Water has a property called surface tension: its surface behaves like a stretched skin that tries to shrink. When a vapour bubble forms inside hot water, surface tension tends to squeeze it. For a bubble to grow instead of collapsing, the water must be hot enough for the vapour inside to resist this squeezing.

At normal air pressure, water boils at 100°C. However, stable bubbles need extra energy to overcome surface tension, so water can be heated a few degrees above 100°C without properly boiling. This condition is called superheating. On a stove, the vessel's base and rough spots heat first and bubbles form here. In an oven, the microwaves heat the water more evenly through its volume. Most microwavable containers also have clean, smooth surfaces. As a result, water can sometimes sit in a superheated state without obvious bubbling. If you then jolt the container or drop something like sugar or instant coffee into it, you suddenly disturb it enough for the superheated water to form lots of vapour.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Why are Nvidia chips being sold to China again?

What are H200 graphics processing units? Why were their exports to China restricted in the past?

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

On December 8, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that Chinese firms will be able to import Nvidia's H200 graphics processing units, provided the company pays the U.S. government a 25% revenue surcharge.

What are the chips used for?

Nvidia designs and develops graphics processing units, or GPUs. While GPUs are what drive digital displays and help with advanced workloads like video games, some are designed to help with AI development, such as by training large language models (LLMs), and performing other resource-intensive tasks. H200 is one generation behind the Blackwell architecture, which is the cutting edge of Nvidia's product lineup. A key differentiator that Nvidia has is its proprietary CUDA software architecture, which it uses to improve the performance of its GPUs.

For geostrategic reasons, the U.S. has restricted or banned the export of highly advanced chips and the know-how to manufacture them since 2018. The U.S. has been joined in doing this by other countries whose firms hold critical leads in GPU and semiconductor technology, like South Korea, Japan and the Netherlands. One reason why the U.S. is wary of China having access to cutting edge technology is the dual-use implications. The U.S. wants to prevent China from arriving at technology breakthroughs first, especially in sensitive fields like defence. Maintaining a technological lead is also beneficial from a commercial point of view for U.S. firms, which would enjoy an advantage from having access to equipment and gear that their Chinese competitors don't.

> Nvidia and the U.S. government's rationale is as follows: by allowing advanced GPUs to be sold to Chinese firms, the U.S. would take some momentum out of China's efforts to develop and grow its own alternatives

Why is export of H200 chips being allowed?

China has already faced a massive backlash to its semiconductor and AI industry from the U.S. Even previous generation H20 chips were subject to an export quantity quota, and reports indicate that the U.S. wanted visibility and control over who the end user for these technologies were. These restrictions spanned both the Joe Biden presidency and Mr. Trump's terms. These limitations have driven China to invest enormous amounts of resources in research and development, fed by the country's proceeds from its export-driven economy and generous support of industry champions like Huawei. The firm has been able to develop indigenous chipsets, and even an operating system for its new phones, that don't rely on Android, which drives most smartphones other than Apple's. Huawei's indigenous phones use chips that use older processes, but boast decent performance. While tech restrictions arguably provide the U.S. with some breathing room to maintain its technological edge, firms like Nvidia have nevertheless sought to access the vast Chinese market. The firm successfully lobbied the White House to allow its previous generation chips to be sold in China.

Will China allow their purchase?

Nvidia and the U.S. government's rationale is as follows: by allowing advanced GPUs to be sold to Chinese firms, the U.S. would take some momentum out of China's efforts to develop and grow its own alternatives, such as those under development at Huawei. If Chinese firms are able to achieve their ends with H200 chips, the appetite for the more advanced B200 chips may not be pressing. The argument rests on the prospect that Nvidia can make money from Chinese sales, without disturbing the U.S.'s tech lead, while also not speeding up China's research and development for foundational technologies. China knows of these strategies, and has in the past taken both paths before it: allowing firms to buy advanced chips from abroad, and in other cases mandating firms to use home-grown alternatives.

Reports indicate that the H200 chips that China will allow its firms to buy will be limited. That way, the country presumably hopes, the short-term needs of firms dependent on this technology will go on unimpeded, while a larger industry-level push for Chinese chip capabilities will reach U.S. levels. There remains a significant gap between the frontier of chip technologies and China's answer to them.

China has been known to close technological gaps with far more limited access to technology in record time. Its DeepSeek LLM, developed by a relatively small firm at a lower cost than U.S. firms and with older chips, highlighted this to global policymakers. However, the U.S. and allied countries with a technological edge in different parts of the AI and chip ecosystem continue to see value in prolonging their pole position for as long as possible, perhaps until artificial general intelligence (AGI) is achieved.

Does the Netflix-Warner deal threaten cinema?

What will be the impact on consumer choice and competition? How will it change the movie-going experience? Could the merger force further shake-ups or even abandonment of smaller players? What about Paramount's hostile takeover bid of Warner Bros.?

John Xavier

The story so far:

On December 5, Netflix said it will acquire Warner Bros., including its film, television studios, and premium streaming assets like HBO, in a massive deal valued around $82.7 billion. This merger marks a paradigmatic shift where a new-age streaming platform is absorbing a traditional Hollywood studio and transforming it into a wholly integrated production-cum-distribution powerhouse.

What does the deal grant Netflix?

The deal potentially grants Netflix unparalleled control over content creation, ownership, distribution, and exhibition. While this merger will expand its content library, lower costs, and realise economies of scale for Netflix by integrating production and distribution, it may carry heavy costs for creative industries, independent voices, consumer choice, and the cinematic experience itself.

Have platforms changed viewing patterns?

Streaming platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Disney+ and others have dramatically changed how viewers discover and watch movies. An on-device and on-demand viewing experience has disrupted the traditional model of theatrical releases and staggered launches. Streaming platforms have made vast libraries of movies, TV shows and documentaries instantly available to subscribers globally, creating a new home-viewing, binge-watching, and direct-to-streaming release experience. But this revolution has come with trade-offs. The rise of streaming has not only eroded the dominance of theatres, but has also changed the kinds of content platforms favour. For instance, serialised series, and content tailored for the subscription model, are distributed more often than standalone films. This merger will further reshape the streaming medium from within, consolidating not only who owns content, but who decides what is created, what is promoted, and what the audience watches.

> The deal comes with several interlinked risks for creative freedom and consumer choice

REUTERS

How is streaming shaping content?

When Canadian media theorist Marshall McLuhan said "the medium is the message," he meant that any new medium reshapes our patterns of association, scale and rhythm more profoundly than the actual content it carries. In that sense, streaming isn't simply a delivery mechanism for more films and shows, but a different medium entirely, one that reframes not just what stories are told, but how often, and under what constraints they are produced, distributed and consumed. The merger between Netflix and Warner Bros. crystallises this shift by concentrating not just libraries, but creative and distributive power in one integrated ecosystem.

In a world where films are consumed on laptops and phones, in fragmented viewing sessions, often alongside other activities, the aura of the cinematic event – dark theatre, collective audience, immersive scale – is lost. The medium of streaming has subtly changed the expectation of what a "film" is, from a crafted, singular, communal art event to a disposable content that can be viewed in isolation, and subsumed in an endless stream of short viewing sessions. With this deal, the streaming medium will get even more homogenised and centralised as the combined entity will control not only distribution but also production and curation of content at scale. And the "message" embedded in this medium will likely favour content optimised for streaming metrics like high volume, and frequent release, instead of bold, challenging, or experimental filmmaking that cares about cinematic form, pacing, or theatrical experience.

How will it threaten creative freedom?

This deal comes with several interlinked risks for creative freedom and consumer choice. After the vertical integration of production, content library, and distribution under Netflix, creative decisions may face greater corporate control and commercial pressures. Project approvals, budgets, and promotions will have to pass through an entity that prioritises algorithmic decision making, and rewards scale and predictability over new creative ideas.

Independent or risk-taking filmmakers may struggle to find space in such a system. Projects that demand slower pacing, unconventional narrative, niche appeal, or artistic experimentation may be de-prioritised in favour of safer, formulaic content that drives subscriptions or data-driven viewing habits.

In such a system, consumer choice will be stunted by what Netflix recommends. Though streaming once promised variety and democratisation, consolidation can shrink the variety of voices and perspectives. Just look at the top 10 trending movies Netflix recommends you. Do you find any of those worth watching just for each film's intrinsic worth, or were they pushed on your screen because they followed a larger societal trend? This type of curation pushes heavily-advertised and controlled content towards consumers. Lastly, this deal will further erode the cinematic experience, which makes film-viewing immersive. Films may increasingly be tailored for streaming consumption that prioritises shorter attention spans, episodic structure, and immediate hooks.

How will competitors change their playbook?

Competitors like Disney+ and Amazon Prime Video, HBO Max (though subsumed under the deal), and smaller streaming services now face a dramatically altered terrain. As a dominant, vertically integrated super-studio emerges, rivals may be compelled to consolidate themselves by forming alliances, merging, or doubling down on niche strategies. A possible new wave of media consolidation may sweep across the industry, reducing the overall diversity of independent platforms. Some critics are already suggesting this merger could force further shake-ups or even abandonment of smaller players. The pressure will not only be commercial, but existential. The possible responses from remaining players could take different forms. Some may pivot to regional or niche content, banking on cultural specificity and local tastes to survive. Others could adopt boutique, art-house-oriented models, emphasising curation over quantity.

What has Paramount done?

Just days after Netflix's announcement, Paramount Skydance placed a hostile, all-cash, bid of $108.4 billion to acquire Warner Bros. While the Netflix deal concentrates control of production and streaming-distribution, the Paramount bid would combine two of Hollywood's legacy studios, plus multiple streaming platforms and news outlets.

What are lawmakers saying?

When reports emerged that Netflix was preparing to acquire Warner Bros., U.S. President Donald Trump said there "could be a problem" with the deal. Democrat Senator Elizabeth Warren labelled the deal an "anti-monopoly nightmare," warning it could lead to price increases, and reduced content diversity. However, this deal will not go through the Federal Communications Commission's approval process as neither Netflix nor Warner Bros. own broadcast stations. But, it could very likely need the Justice Department's go-ahead.

How will Australia's social media ban work?

Why did the government think this was necessary? What are the platforms blocked for children under 16? What do companies which don't comply with the rules face? What did internal filings of certain social media firms reveal with respect to their handling of accounts of teenagers?

Poulomi Chatterjee

The story so far:

On December 10, Australia became the first country in the world to implement a social media ban on users under the age of 16. The ban blocks children from accessing nearly 10 big social platforms, including X and Facebook. Platforms that don't comply with the new rules will face a fine of up to $33 million (A$49.5 million). Australia's ban caps a year-long debate over whether governments can effectively stop teenagers from using social media platforms. Now, about half a dozen countries have signalled that they will study Australia's new policy and see if they can emulate it.

What is the new law?

In November, 2024, the Australian government introduced the Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Bill 2024, which mandated a minimum age of 16 for accounts on certain social media platforms. The new law curtails parents giving consent to their children under 16 to use these platforms. The government's rationale is that banning social media will protect the mental health and well-being of children. The government sees social media as a fertile ground for cyberbullying, harmful content generation, and online predatory practices.

> The Australian government sees social media as a fertile ground for cyberbullying and harmful content generation

New policy: A message reading 'Let them be kids' is projected to mark a law banning social media for users under 16 in Australia, on December 10. REUTERS

How have social media firms responded?

Prior to the ban taking effect on December 10, Meta said it was sending warnings to thousands of Australian teenagers between ages 13 and 15, notifying them to download their digital history and delete their accounts. However, it is unclear whether the process has been completed as verification is a lengthy, multi-step undertaking. The country's internet regulator, the Australian Communications and Media Authority, has noted that there are close to 1,50,000 Facebook users between 13 and 15 years, as well as 3,50,000 Instagram users. Meta's actions are in line with the restrictions imposed by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's government on multiple social media platforms including TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube, X, Reddit, Twitch and the livestreaming website Kick. These companies are required to take "reasonable steps" to keep underage users off their platforms, failing which they will face fines.

Despite doubts on whether regulation will lead to better mental health outcomes for children, companies are begrudgingly following instructions. A Meta spokesperson said that while they are committed to fulfilling the legal obligations, they have raised their concerns around the regulation, saying a "blanket ban" is hardly the solution. The company claimed this action will isolate teenagers from online communities and information while also giving "inconsistent protection." Mr. Albanese has responded saying that given this is the first time a law like this is being passed, there will be flaws while implementing it.

How are social media firms verifying age?

Meta advised affected users to update their contact details so that the company can SMS or email them once they turn 16. Once these children cross the cut-off age, users can resume operating their accounts and find the same reels, posts, messages and short videos. Users can also choose to delete their account completely, if they wish. However, there is a fair chance that Meta might inaccurately flag a user as being under 16. An Age Estimation report published by the Australian government found that age verification systems using facial recognition showed false rejection rates higher than "acceptable levels", at 8.5% and 2.6% respectively, for users of 16 and 17 years of age. In case accounts are incorrectly flagged, Meta has said that users can verify their age either with a government ID or a video selfie via the third-party facial age-verification platform Yoti. Critics have voiced concerns about the surveillance risks of checking children's ages with age-verification technology.

What are the drawbacks?

Meta vice-president and global head of safety, Antigone Davis, stated that the company would like the app stores of Apple and Google Play to collect age-related data when users sign up, and verify whether they have reached 16 years on behalf of Meta. Ms. Davis added this would ensure a standard procedure and also maintain user privacy. Meta hasn't disclosed what methods they will use to determine the ages of users, so that children under 16 don't find a loophole through which to evade the ban. But varied options have been discussed, including government IDs, facial or voice recognition, or age inference methods that consider online user data like interactions to estimate a user's age.

Gaming platforms like Roblox and Discord have recently been forced to introduce age restrictions for specific features, fearing that they could be potential targets.

Why has such a move been implemented?

The recent crusade by parents against social media platforms over their handling of accounts of teenagers has exposed the extent to which they evaded responsibility. The court filings in a lawsuit against Meta and TikTok cited internal chats within these companies. "Instagram is a drug... we're basically pushers," Meta executives reportedly noted in a conversation. Meanwhile, an internal report at TikTok said that "minors did not have executive mental function to control their screen time." The investigation also found that Meta had buried evidence linking higher usage of their platforms with "depression, anxiety, loneliness and social comparison."

PROFILES

America, First in the World

U.S. National Security Strategy

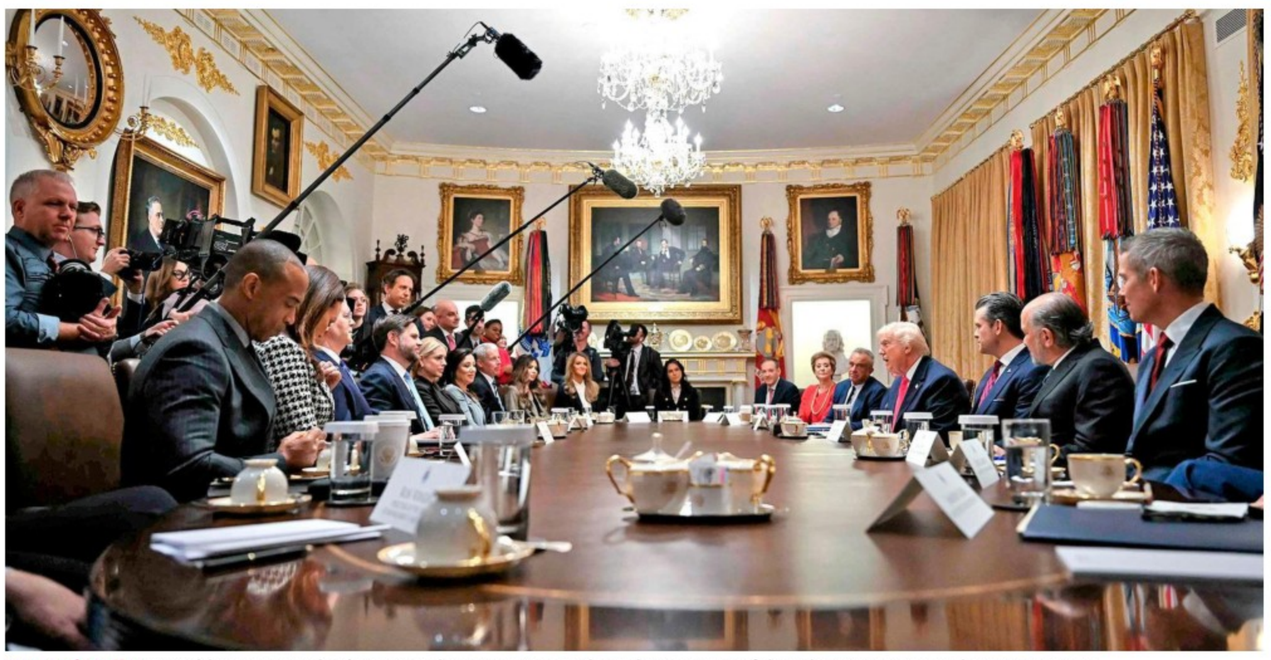
The document outlining the foreign policy thinking of the second Trump administration says the U.S. should not be seeking global dominance or trying nation-building in other countries; it seeks strategic stability with Russia, a new balance of power with China, and new terms of engagement with Europe

Varghese K. George

A nation's strategy is based on its ideas of the self, allies, enemies and interests. On all these aspects, Donald J. Trump has come to represent a radically different view from his predecessors, though his capacity to turn that into policy and action is uneven. On November 25, Mr. Trump released the National Security Strategy (NSS) of his second term, which is more in alignment with his America First politics than his first NSS in 2017. The NSS is a document that outlines the foreign policy thinking and approach of each President in each term. In his first term, Mr. Trump was still surrounded by the professional strategic class of the U.S. The 2017 NSS echoed familiar talking points of the past, leading many to conclude that Mr. Trump did not have plans, or the capacity, to shake off what Barack Obama had termed the 'Washington playbook'. The second coming is different, and Mr. Trump's new NSS makes that clear.

This assertion of Mr. Trump's worldview in American strategy is most evident in the approach towards Russia and China. If he can push that through in the face of resistance and sabotage from within the U.S. establishment, NSS-2025 could form the basis of a new world order for the current century. In 2017, Russia was mentioned 25 times, always in negative terms, and 11 times along with China – clubbing these countries together as enemies of the U.S.

In 2025, Russia is mentioned 10 times and China 21 times, with no upfront acrimony towards either. Only once are they mentioned together, and that is to introspect on U.S. and European strategy towards both: "Today, German chemical companies are building some of the world's largest processing plants in China, using Russian gas that they cannot obtain at home." In 2017, Mr. Trump was confrontational towards China, but now he is more pragmatic, to use one of the qualities that the document attributes to him. The discussion on China borders on admiration – of how it managed to develop itself and gain a global footprint in manufacturing and technology – and blames American strategy for allowing China to achieve all this through globalisation.



Strategic talks: Donald Trump speaks during a Cabinet meeting in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington DC. AFP

In 2017, Russia was blamed in the NSS for threatening Europe, undermining democracy and interfering in elections – charges raised by Mr. Trump's domestic opponents, who even linked his 2016 victory to Vladimir Putin's machinations. "The United States and Europe will work together to counter Russian subversion and aggression," the NSS said in 2017. In 2025, it is Europe that is excoriated for various reasons. As for Russia, it is a future partner, though the wording is less ambitious, in "re-establishing conditions of stability within Europe and strategic stability with Russia".

Global dominance

India's place in U.S. strategy has always been contextual, and the proposed changes could be beneficial for New Delhi. Any American strategy that seeks to drive the world into camps pushes India to take sides it does not want to. Mr. Trump doesn't seem to be keen on reorienting international relations for any grand goals. The NSS discards the wisdom of Republican and Democratic administrations of recent decades that sought American primacy through trade treaties, international organisations and a global governance agenda. In fact, the NSS says the U.S. should not be seeking global dominance, or trying nation-building in other countries, and wants a default position of non-interference in the affairs of other nations unless core interests are threatened.

"The world's fundamental political unit is and will remain the nation-state. It is natural and just that all nations put their interests first and guard their sovereignty. The world works best when nations prioritise their interests. The United States will put our own interests first and, in our relations with other nations, encourage them to prioritise their own interests as well. We stand for the sovereign rights of nations, against the sovereignty-sapping incursions of the most intrusive transnational organisations, and for reforming those institutions so that they assist rather than hinder individual sovereignty and further American interests," the document reads.

It is his reframing of the idea of the American self and interests that makes Mr. Trump a radical departure from the country's politics of the last half-century, which allowed liberal migration and trade. Core interests of the U.S. are in keeping the homeland safe, prosperous and stable, and its peripheries devoid of any outside players – a possible reference to Chinese influence in Latin America. The homeland needs to be insulated from economic threats and to re-industrialise, but equally importantly, its "spiritual and cultural health" must be preserved. Harder borders, curtailed immigration, and promotion of "strong traditional families" with "healthy children" are part of the plan.

It is exactly on this count that the NSS pushes Europe hard to rework its national and international politics. The document acknowledges the cultural links between Europe and the U.S., and by implication sees Russia also in the same sphere. While the dominance of anti-globalism in American politics is clear, Europe continues to be under the control of a pro-globalisation elite. The Trump administration is of the view that this elite control is made possible only through censorship and curtailment of democratic rights. There are nationalist movements in all European countries, and the NSS seeks to encourage them. The NSS is putting European governments on notice that the new compact of the continent will include Russia and exclude China. The U.S. would have a separate balance of power with China in the Pacific.

Political liberty

"The larger issues facing Europe include activities of the European Union and other transnational bodies that undermine political liberty and sovereignty, migration policies that are transforming the continent and creating strife, censorship of free speech and suppression of political opposition, cratering birth rates, and loss of national identities and self-confidence."

While the NSS seeks to offer clarity on many issues, the debate within the U.S. on strategy is hardly settled. This document also reflects some of that confusion and contradiction. For instance, it says at one point that the U.S. does not want to dominate the world, but elsewhere it is clear about maintaining dominance in technology and finance, and even controlling global standards in frontier areas such as AI and critical minerals. It swings between taking pride in U.S. alliances and global leadership and discarding the wisdom of previous administrations. The general anti-war approach of Mr. Trump is not popular among America's strategic community and its military-industrial complex. What Mr. Trump's NSS could do to the world is clear, but whether it will pass the barriers of entrenched habits and interests of the Washington elite remains unclear.

THE GIST

- In the 2017 document, Russia was mentioned 25 times, always in negative terms, and 11 times along with China — clubbing these countries together as enemies of the U.S.
- In 2025, Russia is mentioned 10 times and China 21 times, with no upfront acrimony towards either; only once are they mentioned together
- The document acknowledges the cultural links between Europe and the U.S., but seeks to encourage nationalist movements in the continent

Sacred claims

Preah Vihear

The ancient Hindu temple built by Khmer kings sits at the heart of the ongoing border tensions between Thailand and Cambodia

Stanly Johny

Perched atop a steep cliff in the Dangrek mountain range, Preah Vihear straddles the natural frontier between Cambodia and Thailand. The forested hills stretch from the Mekong River, Southeast Asia's longest, flowing from the Tibetan Plateau to the South China Sea, to the highlands of San Kamphaeng, Thailand.

Built between the 9th and 12th centuries by Khmer kings like Yasovarman I and Suryavarman I and II, the temple honours Shiva as a sacred mountain abode. Originally known as Sri Sikharisvara, meaning 'Glorious Lord of the Mountain', the temple is located in Cambodia's Preah Vihear province. Rising more than 700 metres above the plains, it commands sweeping views of the surrounding landscape. While access today is primarily from Cambodia, the temple's position has long made it a point of contention. It lies at the heart of the Thai-Cambodia tensions, which flared again last week with cross-border air strikes and artillery shelling.

Unlike the conventional east-facing rectangular plan of most Khmer temples, Preah Vihear follows a linear north-south axis. According to UNESCO, the complex comprises a series of sanctuaries connected by pavements and staircases stretching over

ISTOCKPHOTO

800 metres. Five ornate *gopuras* (gateways), carved with Hindu mythology and Khmer symbols, are built on the rugged cliff face.

The dispute between Thailand and Cambodia has its roots in colonial-era borders. The Franco-Siamese treaties of 1904 and 1907 defined the frontier along the watershed line of the Dangrek Mountains.

When French surveyors created maps, they placed Preah Vihear on the Cambodian side despite the temple sitting atop a cliff more easily accessible from Thailand. After Cambodia got independence from France in 1953, its rulers renewed claims over Preah Vihear, but Thailand had deployed troops in the region.

ICJ ruling

Cambodia took the dispute to the Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ), which in 1962 ruled that the temple lay in territory under Cambodian sovereignty. The Court noted that the Franco-Siamese Treaty of 1904 provided that the frontier was to follow the watershed line, and that a map based on the work of a Mixed Delimitation Commission showed the Temple on the Cambodian side of the boundary. Thailand claimed that the map had no binding legal status and had never been formally accepted by Bangkok. The ICJ rejected this contention. It ordered Thailand "to withdraw any military or police force stationed there." While the temple was awarded to Cambodia, the sovereignty around the surrounding land remained undefined, fuelling periodic flare-ups. UNESCO's decision to list the temple as a World Heritage Site in 2008 underscored its historical significance, but also sharpened sensitivities, leading to cross-border fighting.

In April 2011, Cambodia asked the ICJ to interpret the 1962 Judgment, arguing that while Thailand recognised Cambodia's sovereignty over the temple itself, it did not recognise the sovereignty of Cambodia over the surrounding area. In its ruling on November 11, 2013, the Court declared unanimously that the 1962 Judgment decided that Cambodia possessed "sovereignty over the whole territory of the promontory of Preah Vihear", and ordered Thailand to withdraw its forces from that territory. The court also affirmed that the temple was a site of religious and cultural significance for "the peoples of the region", and asked both Thailand and Cambodia to cooperate for its protection.

Despite the ruling, tensions continued to simmer. These flared into open conflict in July 2025, when cross-border fighting killed dozens and displaced more than 300,000 people. The five-day clashes were halted through diplomatic intervention by Malaysia and the U.S. But in November, Thailand announced it would suspend implementation of the ceasefire after a landmine blast injured several soldiers. The decision led to renewed fighting on December 7, with Cambodia accusing Thailand of launching air strikes.

On December 12, U.S. President Donald Trump claimed that he had talked to the leaders of both countries and secured another ceasefire. Yet, tensions continued to linger in the forested, hilly, and sparsely populated borderlands, an area dotted with ancient monuments and sacred cultural carvings.

Turbulent skies

IndiGo

The airline, which commands a 65% share of India's domestic aviation market, says operations are stabilising after days of chaos that saw hundreds of flight cancellations

Saurabh Trivedi

Over the last decade, India's skies have grown busier than ever. The country has emerged as the world's third-largest domestic aviation market, driven by rapid economic growth, rising middle-class travel and expanding regional connectivity. However, while the number of airports has surged, the number of airlines has shrunk, making IndiGo virtually synonymous with air travel in India.

AFP

As per the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), IndiGo currently commands a dominant 65% share of the domestic market. The Air India Group – comprising Air India and Air India Express – holds 26%, while Akasa Air has 5%. SpiceJet accounts for just 2%, with all other airlines together making up the remaining 2%.

Several national and regional carriers have struggled to survive in what is often described as the world's fastest-growing aviation market. The collapse of Jet Airways and Go First further accelerated consolidation, allowing IndiGo to significantly expand its footprint.

This dominance, however, has come under scrutiny following recent mass cancellations of IndiGo flights that caused widespread disruption to air traffic across the country. Regulators observed that the airline had failed to adequately manage its operational resources, including aircraft availability and pilot crew planning.

In response, authorities decided that IndiGo's approved winter schedule should be reviewed and curtailed by at least 10%.

The issue was also raised in the Rajya Sabha on December 8, where Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu said the government would take "very, very strict action" against IndiGo to "set an example" for the industry. The Minister said the disruption stemmed from IndiGo's internal lapses, particularly its failure to manage crew availability and duty rosters.

Mr. Naidu also outlined the implementation of revised Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms, introduced following a High Court order in April 2025. Of the 22 guidelines, 15 were implemented from July 1 and the remaining seven from November 1. The updated FDTL norms represent a significant tightening of crew scheduling regulations. Pilots are now mandated 48 hours of weekly rest, compared to previous rule of 36 hours and night landings have been limited to two from six earlier.

IndiGo board chairman Vikram Singh Mehta, in his message to air passengers, rejected the allegations that the crisis was engineered and that the airline tried to influence the government over the revised FDTL rules.

Flight safety

While airlines argue these measures disrupt roster planning and aircraft utilisation, especially at hubs with heavy night operations, pilot unions maintain that the caps are essential to reduce cumulative fatigue and enhance flight safety.

Financial data highlights the stark contrast within the sector. In a written reply, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said IndiGo was the only major airline to post a profit in FY 2024-25, earning ₹7,253 crore. Air India reported a loss of ₹3,976 crore, Air India Express ₹5,832 crore, Akasa Air ₹1,986 crore and Alliance Air ₹691 crore. SpiceJet also remained in the red with a ₹56-crore loss, while regional carrier Star Air was a rare exception, posting a modest profit of ₹68 crore. Air India is currently undergoing a massive transformation after being taken over by the Tata Group in 2022.

Meanwhile, IndiGo continues to plan aggressively for the future. The airline has placed a firm order for 500 Airbus A320 Family aircraft – the largest single aircraft order ever placed by any airline with Airbus. These deliveries, scheduled between 2030 and 2035, will further strengthen IndiGo's scale and long-term growth prospects.

Amid regulatory action, IndiGo has said operations are stabilising. Demonstrating "continuous operational normalisation" over the past five days, the airline said it is operating over 2,050 flights a day under its revised, scaled-down schedule in line with government directives. All 138 operational destinations remain connected, according to an IndiGo spokesperson.

As India's aviation sector continues its rapid expansion, the current episode underscores the challenges of balancing growth, safety, competition and accountability in an increasingly consolidated market.

ISLAMABAD

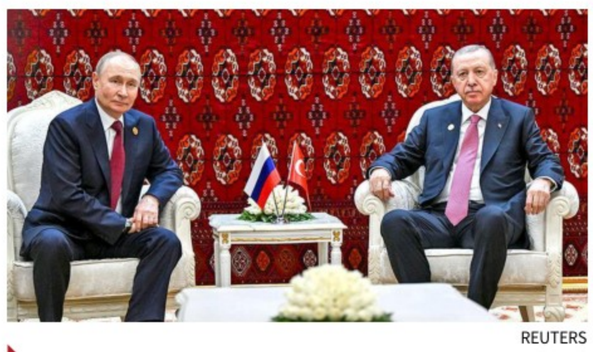
Ready to deal with 'external and internal' threats: Pak. CDF Munir

AP

Pakistan Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir on Saturday said his forces were ready to deal with the threats posed by the external and international elements. "Pakistan Army remains fully focused on both internal and external challenges," he said. PTI

ISTANBUL

'Peace is not far away,' Erdogan says after meeting with Putin



REUTERS

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, fresh from a meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin in Turkmenistan on Friday, said he hopes to discuss a Ukraine-Russia peace plan with U.S. President Donald Trump, adding that "peace is not far away". He also told Mr. Putin that "the Black Sea should not be seen as a battleground". REUTERS

WASHINGTON

U.S. releases redacted warrant for tanker seized off Venezuelan coast

REUTERS

A U.S. court released a heavily redacted warrant on Friday that had authorised the seizure of an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela, a move Caracas decried as an act of "international piracy" and "blatant theft". The U.S. Coast Guard carried out the warrant just as it was set to expire. AFP

BANGKOK

Armed groups used hospital hit by air strike as base: Myanmar junta

AP

Myanmar's military on Saturday acknowledged there was an air strike on a hospital in the western state of Rakhine, in which over 30 people were killed. The military's information office said armed groups used the hospital as their base. It also added that those killed "were not civilians, but terrorists and their supporters". AP

Ukraine's Odesa suffers blackouts after large overnight Russian attack

Russia launched more than 450 drones and 30 missiles, mainly targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure, says Zelenskyy; Moscow says it used Kinzhal hypersonic missiles, calling it retaliation for 'Ukrainian terrorist attacks' on Russian civilians

Agence France-Presse
Reuters
MOSCOW/KYIV

Ukraine's southern port city of Odesa and the surrounding region suffered major blackouts on Saturday after a large overnight Russian attack on the power grid that left more than a million households without power.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia had attacked Ukraine with more than 450 drones and 30 missiles.

"The brunt of the attack was on our energy system, on the south and Odesa region," Mr. Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram, adding that thousands of families in seven regions across Ukraine were left without power.

Critical hit: Firefighters trying to put out a fire following a Russian missile and drone strike in the Odesa region on Saturday. AFP

Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said it was one of the war's largest attacks on Odesa, where supplies of electricity and water had been knocked out. She said supplies of non-drinking water were being brought in to areas of the city.

Meanwhile, Russia said it hit Ukrainian industrial and energy facilities overnight with hypersonic missiles, in what it called a retaliation attack for Ukrainian strikes on "civilian targets" in Russia.

Moscow's Defence Ministry said it carried out a "massive strike" on Ukraine's army and energy facilities using weapons including Kinzhal hypersonic missiles as a "response to Ukraine's terrorist attacks on civilian targets in Russia".

Separately, a Ukrainian drone attack on the central Russian city of Saratov killed two people on Saturday, local authorities said.

Kyiv has hit Russia with drones throughout Moscow's almost four-year offensive on Ukraine, that has seen it seize swathes of the country and rain drones and missiles on the country.

The governor of the Saratov region, Roman Busargin, said the drones hit a residential building in Saratov.

"Two people were killed," Mr. Busargin said on Telegram. "As a result of a drone attack, several flats in a residential building were damaged," he added.

He said authorities would provide financial help to people who have their flats damaged.

The U.S. is holding talks with both Moscow and Kyiv to end the dragging war.

Cambodia shuts border crossings with Thailand

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

People stand on a damaged bridge in Pursat province on Saturday, amid clashes along the Cambodia-Thailand border. AFP

Cambodia shut its border crossings with Thailand on Saturday, after Bangkok denied U.S. President Donald Trump's claim that a truce had been agreed to end days of deadly fighting.

Violence between the Southeast Asian neighbours, which stems from a long-running dispute over the colonial-era demarcation of their 800-km border, has displaced around half a million people on both sides.

At least 25 people have died this week, including four Thai soldiers the Defence Ministry said were killed in the border area on Saturday.

The latest fatalities were followed by Phnom Penh announcing it would immediately "suspend all entry and exit movements at all Cambodia-Thailand border crossings", the Interior Ministry said.

Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said Mr. Trump "didn't mention whether we should make a ceasefire" during their Friday phone call.

The two leaders "didn't discuss" the issue, Mr. Anutin told presspersons on Saturday.

Bangkok and Phnom Penh have traded accusations of attacks against civilians, with the Thai army reporting six wounded on Saturday by Cambodian rockets.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on Saturday urged both sides to "cease all forms of hostilities and refrain from any further military actions".

CPN-UML in Nepal holds biggest rally since Sept. protests

Reuters
KATHMANDU

Tens of thousands rallied for the party of Nepal's ousted Prime Minister, K.P. Sharma Oli, on Saturday, in the largest gathering in the Himalayan country since youth-led anti-graft protests forced him out three months ago.

Police estimated 70,000 attended the rally in Bhaktapur near the capital Kathmandu to launch a three-day convention of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist).

The event "is the biggest mobilisation of supporters" by any party in the capital since the anti-graft protests, said political analyst Puranjan Acharya.

The "Gen Z" protests and subsequent unrest killed 77 people and injured more than 2,000 in September.

Mr. Oli, seeking re-election as UML president, told Saturday's rally the dissolution of Parliament was unconstitutional.

Israel settlements in West Bank growing at highest level since 2017, says UN report

Agence France-Presse
UNITED NATIONS

The expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank is at its highest level since at least 2017, when the United Nations began tracking such data, according to a report by the UN chief on Friday.

In 2025, "plans for nearly 47,390 housing units were advanced, approved, or tendered, compared with some 26,170 in 2024," the report said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the "relentless" expansion, saying it "continues to fuel tensions, impede access by Palestinians to their land and threaten the viability of a fully independent, democratic, contiguous and sovereign Palestinian State".

The Israeli settlement of Alon Moreh, east of the Palestinian city of Nablus, in the occupied West Bank, on Saturday. AFP

"These figures represent a sharp increase compared to previous years," he added, noting an average of 12,815 housing units were added annually between 2017 and 2022.

Excluding east Jerusalem, which was occupied and annexed by Israel in 1967, some 5,00,000 Israeli settlers live in the West Bank, along with about three million Palestinian residents.

Mr. Guterres also condemned the "continued escalation of violence and tensions in the occupied West Bank," pointing out operations by the Israeli Defence Forces.

2 U.S. soldiers, civilian killed in Syria as IS member opens fire

Agence France-Presse
DAMASCUS

Two American troops and an interpreter were killed in central Syria on Saturday after an alleged member of the Islamic State group opened fire on a joint U.S.-Syrian patrol, officials said.

U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) announced the deaths on X after Syria's state media earlier reported that an attack in the city of Palmyra had wounded American and Syrian troops.

"An ambush by a lone ISIS gunman" resulted in the deaths and injuries to three additional troops, said CENTCOM, which oversees the U.S. military in the West Asia. "The gunman was engaged and killed," it added.

Meanwhile, Syria's Interior Ministry said that it had warned the U.S.-led coalition of a possible breach by IS fighters. "The coalition did not take the Syrian warnings into consideration," it added.

Sport

India stuns Egypt, enters final for the first time

SQUASH

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

India stormed into the final of the SDAT Squash World Cup with an emphatic 3-0 victory over defending champion Egypt at the Express Avenue Mall here on Saturday, achieving a historic first for the host nation in the competition.

Seeded second, India was aware that the task would not be straightforward despite Egypt fielding a side without its top stars. The African powerhouse's depth was on display, and while the scoreline suggested dominance, two of the three rubbers were keenly contested.

National champion Velavan Senthilkumar laid the foundation with a clinical opening performance, using immaculate length and precision to subdue Ibrahim Elkabbani and hand India an early advantage.

Marathon effort: Anahat, right, held off Heikal's challenge in five games. R. RAVINDRAN

The tie truly came alive in the second rubber, where Anahat Singh survived a stern test from Nour Heikal in a gripping five-game duel.

Ranked 44 in the world, Heikal belied her ranking against World No. 22 Anahat, troubling the Indian with deep probing shots from the backcourt and a series of exquisite cross-court backhand winners.

The decisive moment arrived in the fifth game when Anahat, leading 5-3, took a brief injury timeout for her left hand.

On resumption, she showed remarkable composure, stringing together crucial points to close out the game and the match 7-3, drawing loud cheers from the home crowd.

In the third rubber, Abhay Singh sealed India's place in the final after a bruising 55-minute battle against Adam Hawal.

Earlier in the day, top seed Hong Kong entered the final despite being tied 2-2 with Japan, after the Asian teams won two matches each.

Hong Kong advanced, thanks to it winning more number of games (8) to Japan's 7.

The results (Semifinals):

India bt Egypt 3-0 (Velavan Senthilkumar bt Ibrahim Elkabbani 7-1, 7-3, 7-6; Anahat Singh bt Nour Heikal 6-7, 7-5, 7-3, 3-7, 7-3; Abhay Singh bt Adam Hawal 7-5, 6-7, 7-5, 7-6).

Japan drew with Hong Kong 2-2 (Tomotaka Endo bt Henry Leung 5-7, 7-4, 2-7, 7-5, 7-5; Satomi Watanabe bt Ho Tomato Tze-Lok 7-4, 7-4, 7-5; Ryunosuke Tsukue lost to Alex Lau 2-7, 3-7, 5-7; Akari Midorikawa lost to Ka Yi Lee 3-7, 7-4, 3-7, 2-7).

Aman reigns supreme in 61kg despite injury

WRESTLING

Y.B. Sarangi
AHMEDABAD

Paris Olympics bronze medallist Aman Sehrawat defied an eyebrow injury to claim the men's freestyle 61kg gold medal in the National wrestling championships here on Saturday.

Sporting his employer Railways' colours, Aman, who fought in a heavier category to avoid hassles of cutting his body weight, outclassed Kerala's Adhit Narayan 12-1 and Madhya Pradesh's Lalit 10-0.

He rallied from 0-2 to beat Rajasthan's Anuj Kumar 13-2 in the semifinals and trounced Delhi's Nikhil 10-0 in the final.

Aman picked up an injury on his left eyebrow due to a clash of heads with Lalit in the quarterfinals. "An injury is part of the sport. It was a good outing," said Aman after the final.

Braveheart: Aman trounced Nikhil 10-0 in the final. VIJAY SONEJI

World under-23 champion Sujeet Kalkal, who beat seasoned rival Vishal Kaliraman 10-0 in the final, established himself as the best wrestler in 65kg following the Bajrang Punia era.

The results: Freestyle: 57kg: Gold: Ankush (Del) bt Atish Todkar (Rlys) 10-0; **Bronze:** Akshay Dhere (Mah) bt Suman Kumar (Bih) 'by fall', Chirag (Har) bt Vishal (UP) 3-2; **61kg: Gold:** Aman Sehrawat (Rlys) bt Nikhil (Del) 10-0; **Bronze:** Deepak (SSCB) bt Janardan Yadav (UP) 'by fall', Anuj Kumar (Raj) bt Lalit (MP) 6-3; **65kg: Gold:** Sujeet Kalkal (Har) bt Vishal Kaliraman (Rlys) 10-0; **Bronze:** Rohit (SSCB) bt Parikshit (Del) 10-2, Vijay Malik (Chd) bt Ayush Kumar (Del) 9-6.

70kg: Gold: Abhimanyu (Har) bt Ravi Kuntal (UP) 10-0; **Bronze:** Rohan Narayan (Rlys) bt Naveen (SSCB) 8-4, Rohit (MP) bt Rahul (Chd) 3-2; **74kg: Gold:** Chandermohan (SSCB) bt Deepak (Har) 10-0; **Bronze:** Vikash Yadav (UP) bt Deepanshu (Chd) 9-8, Adarsh Patil (Mah) bt Vishal Kumar (Pun) 'by fall'; **79kg: Gold:** Amit (SSCB) bt Mohit (Del) 11-0; **Bronze:** Sachin Mor (Rlys) bt Rohit Prajapati (MP) 10-0, Rahul (Raj) bt Vikas (Mah) 5-5 (by criteria); **86kg: Gold:** Mukul Dahiya (SSCB) bt Sachin (Har) 10-0; **Bronze:** Sandeep Singh (Pun) bt Avinash (Raj) 10-0, Aman Singh (Guj) bt Anand V.S. (Ker) 'by fall'; **92kg: Gold:** Jonty (Rlys) bt Sachin (Har) 8-7; **Bronze:** Sahil Jaglan (SSCB) bt Gurdeshwar Singh (Pun) 7-4, Deepak (Raj) bt Mohammed Hafiz (J&K) 5-1; **97kg: Gold:** Vicky (Rlys) bt Deepak (Del) by injury; **Bronze:** Sahil (Pun) bt Avtar Singh (Utk) 10-0, Vetal Shelke (Mah) bt Sanjay Kumar (J&K) 13-0; **125kg: Gold:** Dinesh (SSCB) bt Ronak (Del) 5-0; **Bronze:** Mahendra (Rlys) bt Mohit (Har) 5-0, Raju (Chd) bt Umang (Utk) 10-0.

Team championship: Railways; **runner-up:** Services.

CASHING IN

When Bumrah has a rare off day, you've got to take it: Conrad

R.V. MOORTHY

Jasprit Bumrah had an off day in the second T20I, but the Proteas will not take him lightly. "On a night when Bumrah is off, you've got to take what you can get because I don't know when you're going to get it again. He's a world-class performer. I'm sure he'll be back to his best again," South Africa coach Shukri Conrad said.

OPTIMISTIC

'On a good pitch at such altitudes, we are expecting a lot of runs'

PTI

The HPCA Stadium has traditionally been a high-scoring venue, and the same can be expected in the third T20I on Sunday. "It looks like a really good pitch. At high altitude, on a good pitch, we're expecting a lot of runs. The past scores would suggest that," reckoned Shukri Conrad.

LOVELY SETTINGS

'Part of experience, coming to a wonderful place like Dharamshala'

FILE PHOTO: PTI

It's all part of taking in the experience of touring here, coming to a wonderful place like this. I've had to cancel a meeting because some are on a hike, caught in the mountains somewhere. This is a wonderful place — Shukri Conrad when asked about playing in the chilly Dharamshala weather.

GOOD TO GO

Khawaja declares himself fit ahead of Adelaide Test

AFP

Usman Khawaja on Saturday declared himself fit ahead of the third Ashes Test against England in Adelaide. The 38-year-old missed the second Test in Brisbane after not recovering from the back spasms which he suffered during the opener in Perth. "I feel really good. I'm ready to go," Khawaja was quoted as saying by the ICC.

Hyderabad has a ball as Messi magic enthrals one and all

The disruption in Kolkata does not affect the proceedings in the City of Nizams; the Argentine superstar, Suarez and De Paul have a kickabout with 17 kids; the GOAT Cup trophy ceremony concludes the evening of celebration

GOAT TOUR

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

After Saturday morning's chaos in Kolkata, Hyderabad braced itself for a football extravaganza with cautious anticipation.

Fans, organisers, and stakeholders alike waited nervously at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here, uncertain whether the ripple effects of the City of Joy's disruptions would follow them south.

Star-struck: Messi, seen alongside Telangana CM Revanth Reddy, was given a roaring welcome at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium. G. RAMAKRISHNA

Lessons learnt

But, as the evening unfolded, it became clear that lessons had been learnt: meticulous planning, swift execution, and a line-up of global stars – Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Rodrigo De Paul – turned a chilly evening into an electrifying celebration of sport and spectacle.

Messi arrived in the city amidst fanfare and made his way to Falaknuma Palace. While he took part in a meet-and-greet at the once-princely abode of the Nizams, singers Rahul Sipligunj, famous for the Oscar-winning *Naatu Naatu* song, and Satyavathi Rathod entertained the half-full stands in Uppal.

7v7 action

Cultural festivities soon made way for a 7v7 football match between Messi All Stars and Singareni RR9. Fans were on their feet in the fourth minute after the latter took the lead, not in celebration of the breakthrough but in reaction to Messi's arrival.

With Suarez and De Paul by his side, the magician, looking excited and curious in equal measure, took in the action from the sidelines.

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also entered the fray, clad in the colours of his favourite club, Arsenal, even finding the back of the net once.

Messi, Suarez and De Paul then enthralled fans with a few quick dribbles and a handful of passes, giving the already star-struck faithful an adrenaline boost.

The stands, which regularly bear witness to the likes of Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head sending the ball into the various tiers during the IPL, readily embraced the much-bigger projectiles heading their way, as Messi and De Paul kicked a few footballs into the crowd.

> Thank you for the love and affection I have received today in this country, and for your participation tonight
> MESSI

A penalty shootout followed, but Messi skipped it, cheering from the sidelines instead. As many as 17 kids then had the chance to have a kickabout with the Inter Miami trio as part of the football clinics.

The GOAT Cup trophy ceremony concluded the proceedings.

If deviating from well-laid plans caused pandemonium in the morning, the opposite was the case as the clock ticked past 9 p.m., with Messi gracefully deciding to say a few words, albeit in Spanish.

"Thank you for the love and affection I have received today in this country, and for your participation tonight," he said as the fans roared in delight.

'The sheer mismanagement was very disappointing'

Messy affair: Fans showed their frustration by vandalising the Salt Lake Stadium. DEBASISH BHADURI

Neeladri Bhattacharjee

Lionel Messi's GOAT India Tour turned ugly at its first stop in Kolkata as poor crowd management at the Salt Lake Stadium left thousands of fans frustrated.

Messi arrived at the Salt Lake Stadium with Inter Miami teammates Luis Suarez and Rodrigo De Paul but was surrounded by hordes of VVIPS, including West Bengal Sports Minister Aroop Biswas, organiser Satadru Dutta, Mohun Bagan Athletic Club executives Srinjoy Bose and Debasish Dutta, and a heavy police presence. Scheduled football clinics didn't happen and fans barely got a view of their idol.

"We have been at the gates since around 8 a.m., and the sheer mismanagement by the organisers was very disappointing. The number of VIPs around him made it impossible to see him," Sanmoy Saha, a fan at the stadium, told the *The Hindu*.

"There were more people around him than in a Durga Puja pandal. It was ridiculous," Sanmoy added. "The organiser, a fan group called something like Messians of Kolkata, and the Sports Minister were all walking close to him. What about us?"

"It felt like the organisers only wanted their own people to meet Messi," said Archisman Rakshit, another fan present at the stadium. "The security around Messi struggled to keep people inside the human chain safe. I saw Suarez getting pushed, and Rodrigo De Paul looked visibly annoyed."

Another fan revealed that he had left his wedding day festivities to be at the venue to catch a glimpse of the Argentinian, while others lamented about coming all the way from places like Guwahati and not getting their money's worth.

Ticket holders also slammed the ticketing process. "District app's management was really bad. Everything was digital, but despite showing my payment confirmation, I struggled to enter," a fan revealed.

With inputs from PTI

Men in Blue brace for stern test against the confident Proteas

SA IN INDIA

Ashwin Achal
DHARAMSHALA

This is the season to test yourself. With the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup around the corner, the Indian team wants to take challenges head-on to be best prepared for the mega event.

Defend totals when dew hinders the bowlers, tinker with the batting order – all roadblocks, some created by design and others by happenstance, are welcome.

In the third T20I against South Africa here on Sunday, the home team can add another examination - seriously chilly weather – to the list.

The Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) Stadium, situated at an elevation of nearly 1,500 metres, provides the battlefield.

Temperature in this night game is likely to drop to single-digit figures, ensuring that players and spectators are well layered up. This is the first international fixture to be held at this venue in the month of December since India faced Sri Lanka in an 2017 ODI. That encounter, incidentally, was completed well before the sun set and temperatures dropped, as Sri Lanka chased down the target in quick time.

Stretched: An under-fire Gill will be eager to regain form at the top of the order. R.V. MOORTHY

Tilak Varma, raised in a sunnier Hyderabad setting, is ready to tough it out.

"There are no excuses at this level. It's all about how mentally tough you are," Tilak said in the pre-match press conference here on Saturday.

The 23-year-old batter added that with the five-match series tied 1-1, there is no room to dwell on anything apart from recording a win.

Shubman Gill faces a big test of his own, having struggled for runs in recent times. Gill had a long stint in the nets on Saturday, taking inputs from batting coach Sitanshu Kotak along the way. While it is perhaps too early to doubt his spot in the XI, a big knock on Sunday will set his mind at ease.

Biggest worry

India captain Suryakumar Yadav's form, whose last T20I fifty came way back in October last year, is the biggest concern.

A prolific short format stroke-maker, it is imperative for Suryakumar to use these remaining outings to get into the groove ahead of the World Cup.

On what should be a night full of runs, South Africa will look to repeat the template that proved successful in the previous encounter at New Chandigarh. A rampant Quinton de Kock at the top of the order, followed by Donovan Ferreira's explosive finish at the death could once again prove to be too much to handle for India.

The teams (from):

India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Shubman Gill (Vice-capt.), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma, Sanju Samson, Jasprit Bumrah, Varun Chakaravarthy, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, and Washington Sundar.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (Capt.), Ottneil Baartman, Corbin Bosch, Dewald Brevis, Quinton de Kock, Tony de Zorzi, Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, George Linde, Kwena Maphaka, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, and Tristan Stubbs.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

'If you are mentally strong, you can do well at any number'

Ashwin Achal
DHARAMSHALA

The move to promote Axar Patel to No. 3 in the second T20I against South Africa did not go according to plan. Axar laboured to a run-a-ball 21 – not ideal when chasing a big score.

Axar's elevation is in keeping with the flexible approach followed by the team management, highlighted by head coach Gautam Gambhir's recent statement that batting orders are overrated in white-ball cricket.

At New Chandigarh, however, it was a recognised batter, Tilak Varma, who excelled.

Tilak, batting at No. 5, made a 34-ball 62 even as his teammates failed.

This begs the question – is Tilak better suited to do the job at No. 3? The southpaw is open to the idea, but reiterated that batters should be able to score at all positions.

"Everyone is open to bat anywhere. I'm ready to bat at three, four, five or six – wherever the team prefers. If you are mentally strong, you can do well at any number," Tilak said in the pre-match press conference here on Saturday.

Tilak defended the decision to send Axar ahead of him. "Axar did this role very well in the 2024 T20 World Cup. On some days, things may not go to plan".

On a high: Tilak hit a 34-ball 62 in the second T20I. R.V. MOORTHY

Heading it in: Ekitike towers over the Brighton defence to score Liverpool's second. REUTERS

Liverpool, Chelsea notch up wins

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LIVERPOOL

Mohamed Salah set up a goal in Liverpool's 2-0 win against Brighton on Saturday as he returned to action after an explosive outburst cast doubt over his future at the Premier League champion.

The Egypt forward came off the substitutes' bench to huge cheers in the 26th minute, replacing injured defender Joe Gomez.

The home team was leading 1-0 at the time, with forward Hugo Ekitike on the scoresheet after just 46 seconds.

Brighton squandered a number of opportunities to level and Ekitike scored again with half an hour to go to give Liverpool breathing space.

Cole Palmer returned with a much-needed goal as Chelsea beat Everton 2-0 and back into the top four.

The results: Premier League: Chelsea 2 (Palmer 21, Gusto 45+1) bt Everton 0; Liverpool 2 (Ekitike 1, 60) bt Brighton 0.

LaLiga: Atletico Madrid 2 (Koke 17, Griezmann 74) bt Valencia 1 (Beltran 63); Mallorca 3 (Morlanes 5, Mascarell 82, Muriqi 89) bt Elche 1 (Maffeo 21-og).

Bundesliga: Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Doan 68) bt Augsburg 0; Hoffenheim 4 (Proemel 8, Kabak 31, Lemperle 65, Asllani 72) bt Hamburg 1 (Philippe 82); St. Pauli 2 (Kaars 35, 53) bt Heidenheim 1 (Pieringer 64); Borussia M'Gladbach 1 (Koulierakis 22-og) lost to Wolfsburg 3 (Wimmer 4, 34, Amoura 30).

INBRIEF

National shooting: Raiza claims golden double in skeet

Raiza Dhillon clinched the women's senior and junior skeet gold in the National shooting in New Delhi on Saturday. The 21-year-old shot 56 in the women's final to secure the top podium place ahead of Yashasvi Rathore (55). Fellow Olympian Ganemat Shekhon finished third with 45. In the junior final, she shot 55 to finish ahead of Vanshika Tiwari, who took silver with 54. Mansi Raghuwanshi won the bronze medal with 45.

Nandhidhaa beats Srishti, retains National title

P.V. Nandhidhaa beat Srishti Pandey in the 11th round on Saturday to retain her title in the National women's chess championship at Durgapur.

Final placings (top three): 1. P.V. Nandhidhaa (TN) 9.5 pts, 2. Mary Ann Gomes (PSPB) 9; 3. Arshiya Das (Tri) 8.5.

Vijaya CC wins KSCA (Group I) U-14 inter-club tournament

Ahaan Dash scored a half-century (65) as Vijaya CC beat Social Cricketers by 51 runs in the final to win the KSCA (Group I) U-14 inter-club tournament.

The scores: Vijaya 190/8 in 50 overs (Ahaan Dash 65, Ved Nahar 40) bt Social Cricketers 139 in 45.2 overs (Hridaan Sai 41).

Mumbai faces Haryana in crucial clash

The title holder needs a win and will also look to improve its NRR; Hyderabad aims for a second straight victory as it locks horns with Rajasthan

Pace ace: Siraj's presence has inspired Hyderabad and he will look to deliver in the fixture against Rajasthan. PTI

SMAT

Shayan Acharya
PUNE

It's not for nothing that T20 is considered the most fickle format. With no clear favourites, every game throws up new challenges for the teams, and with hardly any turnaround time in between matches, adaptability remains the key.

Things are no different in the Super League phase of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, either. The teams had to adapt to new conditions and battle the dew factor as all the four fixtures on the opening day saw teams bowling first winning the game.

After a memorable group league campaign, Mumbai suffered a shock defeat against Hyderabad, due to a batting collapse. And ahead of a do-or-die clash against Haryana at the D.Y. Patil Academy ground on Sunday, skipper Shardul Thakur wants 'a little bit of smartness' from his batters and expects them to make the most of the PowerPlay.

Mumbai lost the plot after losing three wickets inside the PowerPlay, and the defending champion needs to regroup and also look at bettering its Net Run-Rate in order to stay in the hunt.

Haryana, on the other hand, comes on the back of a convincing victory against Rajasthan, and even though Nishant Sindhu remains a doubtful starter due to a finger injury, the team hopes to continue the winning run.

Bolstered by the return of Mohammed Siraj, a confident Hyderabad will take on Rajasthan at the same venue, and Tanmay Agarwal, who played a key role in guiding the team home against Mumbai, told *The Hindu* that the team's focus has been to improve the NRR.

In the other fixtures of the day, Andhra will take on Punjab at the MCA Stadium, while Jharkhand, coming on the back of a record-chase, will hope to keep the momentum against Madhya Pradesh, which registered a come-from-behind win in the previous game against Andhra.

Sunday's matches: Mumbai vs Haryana (9 a.m., D.Y. Patil Academy), Andhra vs Punjab (11 a.m., MCA Stadium), Hyderabad vs Rajasthan (1.30 p.m., D.Y. Patil Academy), Madhya Pradesh vs Jharkhand (4.30 p.m., MCA Stadium).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Karnataka takes lead

Karnataka secured the first-innings lead over Uttarakhand on day two of their BCCI Vijay Merchant Trophy under-16 match at Bhilai.

In reply to Karnataka's 287, Uttarakhand could only make 150 as J. Sukruth and Suvik Gill scalped four each.

The scores: Karnataka 287 in 95 overs (Arush Jain 135, Abhimanyu 5/91) vs. Uttarakhand 150 in 59.4 overs (Anaya Negi 45, J. Sukruth 4/48, Suvik Gill 4/11).

Rachitha stars in Karnataka's win

Rachitha Hatwar top-scored with 156 as Karnataka beat Vidarbha by 29 runs in the BCCI U-19 women's one-day trophy in Hyderabad.

The scores: Karnataka 284/7 in 50 overs (Rachitha Hatwar 156, Shreya S. Chavan 57) bt Vidarbha 255 in 48.1 overs (Riddhima Maradwar 33, Shraddha Nabira 71, Akshara 72, Vandita K. Rao 4/49).

LIVE TELECAST

SMAT: JioHotstar, 9, 11.30 a.m. 1.30 & 4.30 p.m.

Men's U-19 Asia Cup: India vs Pakistan, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 10.30 a.m.; UAE vs Malaysia, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 10.30 a.m.

Tennis Premier League: Sony Sports Ten 5, LIV, 4.30 p.m.

Serie A: DAZN, 5, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday)

LaLiga: FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)

India vs South Africa: 3rd T20I, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 7.30 & 10.30 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8, 10 p.m. & 12 a.m. (Monday)

Top stars set to light up third edition of GCL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

After Dubai and London, the Global Chess League has arrived in another great city. Mumbai, a megapolis like no other, is indeed an apt venue for Season Three of a chess event like no other.

The GCL,a joint venture of Tech Mahindra and FIDE, obviously draws inspiration from the IPL. It is the most glamorous, star-studded, innovative league out there in the mind sport. The last two seasons had produced some fascinating chess, and there should be more of it over the next 10 days at the Royal Opera House here.

Last year, the venue in London was special, too: the Friends House, a beautiful historic building where Mahatma Gandhi made his first public speech in London when he went there for the Round Table Conference of 1931. The Royal Opera House witnessed legends in theatre and music like Bal Gandharva, Prithviraj Kapoor and Lata Mangeshkar.

Ready for the moves: Anand Mahindra, Chairman of the Mahindra Group, with the GCL participants. GCL

Now the Opera House will see some Grandmasterly moves from some of the biggest names in the game, including the legendary Viswanathan Anand. The World No. 2 and No. 3 from the United States, Hikaru Nakamura and Fabiano Caruana, the brilliant young trio from India, World champion D. Gukesh, R. Praggnanandhaa and Arjun Erigaisi,

In fact, out of the top 15, only one is missing: the World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, who had played in the first two editions. It is not just the world's top men, but many of the strongest women are also here, including the World No. 1 and No. 2 Hou Yifan and Zhu Jiner.

Six teams are in the fray: Triveni Continental Kings, the winner of both the editions so far, American Gambits, Alpine SG Pipers, PBG Alaskan Knights, Ganges Grandmasters and upGrad Mumba Masters. And they all look extremely strong.

(The writer is in Mumbai at the invitation of Tech Mahindra.)

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